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THE TIMES ... BEST FOR NEW BOOKS Being shocked by De Sade

The verdict on Monica page 41

Evil, Hitler and Speer by Gitta Sereny page 21



FREE BOOKS FOR SCHOOLS Token page 26 Plus 26 pages of APPOINTMENTS Inquiry tackles clothes and computers

Traders who overcharge to be fined

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

A NATIONWIDE assault on high prices was promised by the Government yesterday as part of a package to boost com-petition and enterprise. The Trade Secretary is tak-

ing new powers to tackle retailers and utility companies who charge more for their goods than their counterparts do overseas, and companies face heavy fines if they breach anticompetitive rules.

Computers, electrical goods, designer clothes and watches are among goods that will be examined — as will electricity standing charges, which can add up to 20 per cent of bills. Cars, supermarkets and private medicine are already un-

der investigation. The results will be made public with the Department of Trade and Industry "naming and shaming goods that cost

much more here than abroad Stephen Byers will then call on his powers, which no previous Trade Secretary has used. to ask the Director-General of Fair Trading John Bridgeman to investigate specific prices.

Under the Competition Act, companies can be fined up up to 10 per cent of their UK turnover if they are found to have en gaged in anti-competitive practices and failed to remedy

Announcing his plans to the Commons, Mr Byers said that there was widespread concern that customers in Britain had to pay more than people in other countries for similar goods.

He was also asking the energy regulator to investigate widely varying standing charges imposed by electricity companies. These account for 13 per cent of a typical bill, but can reach 20 per cent for low users. The results of the investigation would be taken into account the next time electricity prices were negotiated, and he wanted the regulator to ensure that the poor and elderly were

not being disadvantaged. Mortgage companies, too, would have to give clearer information on charges, fees and rates so that it would be easier for borrowers to make a choice and calculate how much their home loan would really cost. But John Redwood, the Shadow Trade Secretary, complained that it had taken the

news

is bad news.

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BUSINESS.

Bigging The Times overless Ansiria Sch St. Belgium B Frs Ht. Canada \$250 Canaries Pts 400. Oppus Ct. 20; Den-mark Dier 22.00; Kinhand Ptuk 30.50; Prance.

FR 17.00; Germany DM 5.00; Glical Greece Dr 750; Netherlands H 6.50; 1000; Luncabburg Li 110; Madeira FR 17.00; Germany DM 5.50; Gilicaliar 909; Greece Dr 750; Neitherlands Fl 6.50; Italy L. 5000; Limenberg Li 100; Madeira Esc 300; Mahar 90c; Morocco Dir 20.00; Norway Kr 25.00; Parangal Esc 300; Spain Fr 400; Sweden Sicr 25.00; Swinserland S Frs 6.00; Tunisia Dir 3.200; USA 53.50.
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Government two years to realise the importance of bringing down prices. He described the international study as a poor man's Which? to tell us how much we are suffering."

There was no evidence that the Government was the "customers' friend", he said, and Gordon Brown had pushed up prices by raising duty on

He told Mr Byers: "I do hope that, when drawing up

INSIDE

Budget aftermath. Peter Riddell Leading article, letters.

Matthew Parris

his list of sinners that need referral for high pricing, he will refer the Chancellor of the Exchequer. He is the main offender when it comes to petrol and diesel prices.

"He is the main offender when it comes to the haulage industry, and I hope he will take responsibility for the problems the motorist is now expe-

Mr Redwood claimed it had taken the Government two years to realise prices should be lower and monopolies broken. "The Conservatives broke monopolies and introduced competition on an industry by industry basis.

"The Government has spent two years talking about competition but has done nothing sig-nificant to further it. All it has done is it has put up business costs and put up business pric-

He said: "There is absolutely no evidence that this Government is the consumer's friend. They talk about being so, they spin that they are, but they funk the decisions necessary to actually bring the pric-

Mr Byers also announced that he would be injecting 100 million of new money into the creation of small business service. The new service, to be headed by a high-profile chief executive, would offer advice on matters such as exports and payrolls, while acting a voice for small businesses in

Budget leaflet 'is hiding tax rises'

BY ROLAND WATSON, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

GORDON BROWN'S presentation of the Budget was last night referred to the public spending watchdog amid claims that the Chancellor was misleading millions of voters. Francis Maude, the Shadow

Chancellor, claimed that a leaflet explaining Budget measures for the public and produced with taxpayers' money amounted to "Labour Party He complained that it omit-

ted to mention a series of tax s and masked others with "half-truth" euphemisms."
Some 1.5 million copies of

the document are to be distributed to libraries, Post Offices, schools and universities at a cost of £100,000. Mr Brown is seeking authority to send a similar leaflet to all 26 million British households next year.

But Mr Maude complained that the eight-page document. titled "Budget 99, building a stronger economic future for Britain", was a "completely

one-sided account". The new energy tax on businesses, to come in from 2001, is described as a "climate change levy". And those earning more than £26,000 a year whose National Insurance contributions have been raised - are described as "paying a

fairer share". There is no mention of the scrapping of the 20p income tax band or the 0.5 per cent in-crease in stamp duty for house

sales of more than £250,000. The Shadow Chancellor has written to Sir John Bourn, the Comptroller and Auditor-General, asking if the leaflet is a proper use of public money. He has also written to Sir

Secretary at the Treasury, to ask if the leaflet is an accurate description of the Budget. Mr Maude said: "This is the most dishonest Budget ever and this leaflet gives a completely misleading view of it. It reads like a Labour Party propaganda sheet [and] is full of

Andrew Tumbull, Permanent

half-truths." A Treasury spokesman said the leaflet gave a phoneline and Internet address for those who wanted to find out more.



Rapist climbs jail wall

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

A RAPIST who bombarded his victim with threatening letters and set fire to her house escaped from prison yesterday. seven months after being made a "trusted" inmate.

Alan Crisp's victim and wit-nesses at his trial were given police protection last night as a row broke out over the decision to lower his security classification. Officers at Lincoln iail claimed their warnings had been disregarded, but the Prison Service said the governor had never heard from staff that they had such concerns. As a result of the lower classification, Crisp was known as a "trusty" and was moved from the main part of the jail to a special unit. He fled from there by climbing out of a skylight and scaling a ladder lowered by accomplices into the prison grounds from the top of Crisp, 36, of Hucknall in

Nottinghamshire, was serving eight and a half years for rape, arson and intimidation. After the rape, he poured petrol through his victim's letter box and set her house on fire. He also wrote threatening to "scar her pretty litte face".



University boxers do battle over the scales

BY JOHN GOODBODY

SPORTS NEWS CORRESPONDENT

THE Varsity boxing match began in chaos last night when a simmering dispute between Oxford and Cambridge nearly caused its cancellation. The controversy, the biggest at either

of the universities since the 1987 Oxford boat race mutiny, had been mounting for months since the two sides failed to agree on the timing of the weigh-in. Cambridge wanted a later start of 6pm instead of the traditional midday, but

It should take place earlier to give the ford have won the past 13 meetings. boxers a chance to rehydrate and eat. Last year the two sides took the same

view. But Oxford, then the home team. had its way when Cambridge were informed that, since the event is recognised by the Amateur Bosing Association as an open tournament, "there is that there had to be a weigh-in with no requirement for the weigh-in to be one of their officials present. in the evening, but can be determined.

This year Cambridge were the hosts - But this was not good enough for the

Should not be used by pregraint women.

making the antagonism between the two univesities particularly intense. The arguments continued last night at the Guildhall, Cambridge, where

800 had paid a total of £10,000 to watch the annual match. The ABA inssted Oxford had arrived in Cambridge at

by the promoting club — obviously this limchtime and had weighed in in front year that being Oxford."

of the Cambridge University secretary. instead of the traditional midday, but and insisted on their right to choose the ABA, it would have refused to sanction Oxford insisted that for health reasons weigh in time, but Oxford refused. Ox. a match without proper weigh ins.

The Dark Blues had spent the afternoon rehydrating and eating, and cleary their body weights were higher than their Cambridge counterparts.

Eventually, after 14 hours of bitter arguments, it was agreed that the match, which had never been cancelled before except in war-time in its 102-year history, would go ahead, but only within the approved weight bands of the ABA.

Both sides agreed that there would be eight contests, with Oxford forfeiting the lightweight category because their man, John Banks, was too heavy.

First tango in **Buenos Aires** for Prince and the showgirl

FROM ALAN HAMILTON IN BUENOS AIRES

ARGENTINA does strange things to Princes of Wales. It must be the influence of hot Latin blood that loosens the strings of their tight northern European inhibitions.

At the height of a delicate mission to mend fences with our former adversary, Charles allowed himself to be lured onto a Buenos Aires dance floor to make a creditable attempt at that most blatantly sexual dance, the tango. It was a diplomatic masterstroke.

The Prince had just deliv-ered a surprisingly pointed speech on the Faikland Islanders' right to self-determination at a banquet hosted by President Menem in the capital's grandest hotel, when the company moved to a side room to enjoy a cabaret performed by popular local tango troupe.

Bold as brass, Adriana Vasile, a lissome member of the troupe, asked the Prince if he would care to tango; it does, after-all, take two. "Will you teach me?" he asked with an enthusiasm undimmed by his lack of the obligatory black goucho hat. Señora Vasile was only too happy to oblige. Dressed for the occasion in

a shockingly but necessarily split skirt, she led the Prince through the Ninth of July and Don Juan. He was a little stiff: the dance and a lifetime of polo injuries do not sit naturally together. But he undoubtedgave it his best, well aware that the cameras were on him. Enjoyment was written all over his face.

His teacher was generous in her praise, knowing that she was destined for instant celebrity. "He didn't know how to tango but he obviously knew how to dance." Señora Vasile

said through an interpreter "He was very relaxed and had a lot of energy. I was surprised, as he has the image of being a serious person. But he was a different person when

we were dancing; he seems to forget protocol." Suitably emboldened, the Prince then took to the floor with the President's exceeding daughter Zulemita. Their terpsichorean efforts could not properly be described as a tango, but only because Zulemita's white evening dress, al-

did not, however, prevent the Prince from kissing her. The present Prince of Wales is not the first to let his hair down in Argentina, although he behaves with infinitely more propriety than the future Edward VIII, the last heir to

though daringly low cut at the top, was far too tight to permit

the necessary leg abandon. It

the throne to visit the country. initially making a good imession, the former Prince's 1931 tour of Latin America began to sag as it progressed. The Chilean ambassador noted his extra-curricular activipies: "Baccarat, roulette, double whisky sodas and ladies pasis were

By the time he reached Arning to tell. The biographer Philip Ziegler wrote: turned up at important functions two hours late, in the wrong dress and noticeably the worst for wear.'

His successor may be a tyro at the tango, but he has a tendency to turn up on time, in the right clothes, and sober.

Falklands row, page 3

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Pro-euro Conservatives win the game of the name Rebels could steal European seats from Hague, writes James Landale



a fresh blow yesterday when Conservative officials failed to prevent breakaway pro-Euronean Tories from registering a new political party yester-

The new Registrar of Political Parties brushed aside Tory objections that the name of the Pro-Euro Conservative Party was too similar to that of the official Conservative

The decision opens the way for the group to put up a comprehensive list of candidates

for the European elections in June. If the party campaigns hard, it could win a handful of

But more importantly, and more likely, it could steal enough Tory votes to reduce substantially the number of seats that William Hague is

The Pro-Euro Conservative Party was set up by two Tories in January in protest at Mr Hague's opposition to the European single currency.
John Stevens, MEP for

Thames Valley, said: "Conservatives who had thought their only options were to vote for Labour, the Liberal Democrais or stay at home, can now vote Conservative and in faour of the euro. We will do all we can to build up support for a nationwide campaign which pro-euro Conservatives

Brendan Donnelly, who is Member of the European Parliament for Sussex South and Crawley, said: "Until now, the policies of William Hague have implied that Conservatives can only be anti-euro.

"Our successful registration proves that it is possible to be both a Conservative and in fa-

Several breakaway Labour parties have been registered under the rules created by the Registration of Political Parties Act.

The legislation was introduced to prevent confusion among electors after some candidates used party names almost identical to those of the mainstream parties.

Hugh Kerr, an MEP expelled from Labour last year after being banned for being too critical of election procedures, is standing for the Scottish Socialist Party.

expelled from the Labour Party at the same time, is heading the new Alternative Labour List in the East Midlands

Forty-nine parties in all, including the ten with House of Commons seats, have so far been formally registered to fight for seats in this summer's elections to the Scottish parliament, the Welsh assem-bly and to the European Parliament.

Tango puts se

on dan

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Lunch o



Grenfell: food for thought

Geldof makes millions from Planet 24 sale

BOB GELDOF and Lord Allithe Labour peer, are expected to receive up to £6 million each from the sale of their Planet 24 television company to Carlton Communications. Charlie Parsons, the producer. who also owns a third of the company, will also benefit.

The deal means that one of the United Kingdom's most conservative media moguls, Michael Green, chairman of Carlton Communications. now owns one of the country's zaniest television companies. Planet 24 pioneered pro-grammes such as The Word and The Big Breakast.

Carlton, one of Britain's largest commercial television companies, is believed to be making an immediate £10 million payment for Planet 24. The three equal shareholders can then receive up to another £8 million depending on how the independent production company performs in future. Mr Geldof, who organised the Band Aid concerts to raise money to relieve famine in Ethiopia, said yesterday that now Planet 24 had been sold



innovative television

reer as an astrophysicist". In fact Mr Geldof, who last month completed a threemonth stint presenting an evening radio programme on the London station Xfm, part of the Capital Group, is more likely to chase radio investments around Europe.

Lord Alli, who is particular-ly close to new Labour, will join the board of Carlton Television in April and will take on the new role of managing director of Carlton Productions. The enlarged division will include not just the existnow Planet 24 had been sold ing Carlton. Productions but he "intended to pursue a ca- also Planet 24 and Action company specialising in game

Together the Carlton production houses will be spending more than £200 million a year making programmes for all of Britain's broadcasters, includ-ing digital television.

In buying Planet 24, which also makes Watercolour Challenge for Channel 4 and Gaytime TV for the BBC, Mr Green. 50, is tapping into the youth market. Planet 24 has nurtured popular talent such as Chris Evans, Lily Savage, Mark Lamarr and Gaby

Mr Green, who was closely associated with the Conservatives under Baroness Thatcher, is through Lord Alli buying himself access to the thinking of new Labour.

Lord Alli said yesterday that with the backing of the largest player in ITV and the UK's leading commercial inter-national sales business outside the BBC, the opportunities are boundless".

Mr Geidof claimed yesterday that Planet 24 had managed to shift the way television looked so that screens were now awash with Plannet 24 "wannabe" programming.

as two tribes go to war sked his view on Westem civilisation. Mahat-

plied: "I think it would be a good idea." The thought may have occurred to King Mswati III of Swaziland as he watched Prime Minister's Questions yesterday -

amazed at the savagery.

His Majesty, on a visit to
Britain, graced the Distinguished Strangers' Gallery in magnificent scarlet tunic and brocade. Swaziland is a small. safe, stable country in South-ern Africa, its constitution a blend of tribal tradition with democracy. Ceremony there is colourful but decorous; nobody is insulted; nobody gets

own tribe. The Commons hit

At a luncheon in his honour the previous day at the Mansion House - and to the horror of the Lord Mayor - the

By Mark Inglefield

POLITICAL REPORTER

FRANCIS MAUDE, the Shadow Chan-

cellor, was found to have broken the

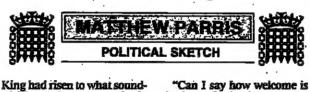
House of Commons anti-sleaze rules

yesterday after an inquiry by the Parlia-

mentary Committee on Standards and

He had been reported to the commit-

tee for failing to declare an interest in a



The King of Swaziland greeted by a guard of honour at the palace yesterday. There was less ceremony at the House

King of Swaziland amazed

ed like an impromptu tirade in the Siswai language from an unknown guest in a brown leather coat. But this was Swazi etiquette: royal persons should rise to a babble of praise. His Majesty will there-fore have been less surprised something similar when our Prime Minister rose. Everyone started screaming.

The Swazi King will also have recognised a custom now ritually observed in King Tony's court. Every Labour backbencher asking Blair a question prefaces it with an extravagant verbal grovel. This is getting sillier than the silliest days of the premiership of the Great She-Elephant (the Indlovukazi title which the Swazis accord to their Queen Mother and which Sir Julian

the boost for business ..." began Jonathan Shaw (Lab. Chatham & Aylesford). Could Phil Woolas (Lab) welcome the £15 million for schools in his constituency of Oldham E & Saddleworth? He could. Was Blair "aware how

welcome in Scona was this week's Budget? He was, after Jim Murphy (Lab, Eastwood) had told him. La-Gareth Thomas ("while welcoming ... etc") had the cheek to mention a massive oil spill off his constituency of Clwyd W. Off message, Gareth: King Tony does not wish to receive bad news.

But these primitive tradi-tions were routine by comparison with the War Dance. William Hague rose to wild ululation behind him. In a ritual chant he then asked the same question five times: would the Prime Minister say "what is

this Government have overseen? To an answering ca-cophony from the Labour side, King Tony insisted, five times, that there was no rise.

the total tax rise, in pounds ...

King Mswathi looked aston-ished. Each side plainly thought its chief was winning. But the clash of testimony was never resolved. Or rather it was resolved by a rant, of unprecedented violence, from King Tony about how good were the Tories. Maybe the House should

create a new ceremony? When statistical deadlock is reached, Madam Speaker should strike a traditional African skin drum (gift of Swaziland) and a figure of majestic authority in such matters, such as Peter Riddell, should be carried in by bearers to adjudicate. Happily I understand that Mr Riddell briefly lowers his bifocals to dispose of this clash, en passant, in his column in The Times this morning. I hope King Mswati sees

Cardinal's offer on abortion

NEWS IN BRIEF

Scotland who have had an abortion have been invited back to the Church for a "fasttrack" to absolution. Cardinal Thomas Winning leader of Scotland's Catholics, used a speech to mark the second anniversary of his controversial "cash for babies" programme to remind women that they could "make peace with God and their unborn child". * / His offer on Tuesday night

have had abortions, doctors. and nurses who have peformed the procedures and relatives who have counselled

Archdiocese of Glasgow that they no longer needed to refer to the bishop to give absolution to a woman who had had a an abortion and sought for-giveness through confession.

Three men held Three men were being ques

tioned about the murder of Michael Menson, a 30-year-old black musician found in a North London house suffering from burns. The men were arrested in the Edmonton area and were being held by the Yard's new racial and

Doping charges

Five men including a professional gambler were charged after a Scotland Yard investigation with conspiracy to de-frand bookmakers by dooing horses to reduce their perform-ance during March 1997. They will appear at Bow Street Magistrates' Court in April.

Party planner

has announced plans for the which include having all its 2,000 managed outlets and 1,500 leased pubs open, selfing drinks at normal prices and not charging for admis-sion. Staff will be paid triple time and a share of takings.

McDonald move

The Channel 4 presenter Sheena McDonald is to be moved out of intensive care at University College Hospital London tre to aid her recovery after being hit by a police van answering a 999 call. The 44-year-old suffered serious bead injuries in the accident.

Guinness death

A member of the Guinness family died when she was thrown from her Romany caravan, an inquest was told. Rose Nugent, 31, niece of the late Lady Henrietta Guinness, struggled to regain control. when the horse bolted near the family estate in Berkshire. Verdict: accidental death.

Blair crony moves into the top slot at Carlton

By Carol Midgley MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

WHEN Lord Alli takes his seat on the board of Carlton Television next month, new Labour can congratulate itself that one of its most devoted cronies is working at the heart of a company once famed for its links with the Tory party. As managing director of Carlton, the Labour peer will

preside over more than E200 million of programming and become one of the most powerful men in television-His new position will make him even more valuable to Tony Blair, who uses the 34-year-old millionaire as his "hotline" to Britain's youth.

It was Waheed Alli who helped Mr Blair to woo young Britain during the election campaign, taking over the par-ty political broadcasts and making them into slick minidramas starring Mr Blair. Lord Alli, who lives with his



dress and chauffeur

partner Charlie Parsons, was made the youngest life peer after the general election — a reward for his unstinting support and financial donations to New Labour.

He is a colourful, diminutive figure, famous for his immaculate three-piece suits and his Jaguar car driven by a traditional English chauffeur.

His rise through the Establishment has been meteoric, particularly after the careers teacher at his South London comprehensive advised him to become a bus conductor. In 1992 he met Mr Parsons,

the highly creative force behind programmes such as Network 7, who had just teamed up with Bob Geldof at Planet 24 with the aim of pioneering the "laddish" programmes of the 1990s such as The Big Breakfast and The Word.

He and Mr Parsons became an item and are now one of the most fashionable couples in the country, the very symbols of new Britain.

Last year a party was staged at their Kent mansion for Mr Parsons's 40th birthday. There were peacocks on the lawn and dodgem cars and waltzers in the grounds with guests ranging from Peter Mandelson, one of Lord Alli's closest friends, to EastEnders actor Ross Kemp and Vanessa Feltz.

How different from our new heights of pantomime or plumbed new depths of barbarism. depending upon whether you view the Chamber as a branch of theatre or of government.

Critchley once borrowed for his own Party Leader).

Maude breached anti-sleaze rules debate he helped to initiate to oppose government plans to replace PEPs with individual savings accounts. Mr Maude is a director of the fund manag-

ers Gartmore Shared Equity Trust. He was also reported for adding his name to a Tory amendment to a finance Bill affecting tax on retail shops. It was claimed that he should have declared this as he receives £25,000 as a director of the supermarket chain Asda.

But although the standards committee found that Mr Maude had fallen "foul of the rules", it claimed that this had been "unintentional" as his name had been added to the debate by anoth-

er Tory MP.
Elizabeth Filkin, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, ruled that Mr Maude should have declared his interest in Gartmore because of its links with a firm which was involved in selling personal finance products. But, she said, both breaches had arisen from the practice by the major par-ties of automatically adding the names of their frontbench spokesmen, in Government and Opposition, to relevant

motions and amendments. Ms Filkin suggested that, in future, party whips should check their spokes men's personal financial interests be fore adding their names.

Condon unease at racism curbs Civil servant stopped 40 times

BY STEWART TENDLER CRIME CORRESPONDENT

SIR PAUL CONDON yesterday dismissed two of the principal legal reforms proposed by the Stephen Lawrence inquiry and cast doubt on the third. The Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police told MPs that the proposals for a law against racist language and behaviour in private would be unworkable.

Any legislation would go against the spirit of the European Convention on Human Rights, and Britain was moving away from this type of law, he said while riving evidence to the Commons Select Committee on Home Affairs. He expected that the idea would be explored and then rejected as impractical.

Sir Paul said he was also "troubled" by the suggestion from Sir William Macpherson of Cluny, the inquiry chairman, that courts should abandon the legal principle that defendants cannot be re-tried on a charge for which they have been acquitted, even if there is new evidence. "It seems to be going in the opposite direc-tion from the sorts of protection we have sought around suspects.

Asked about proposals to bring the police within the scope of the Commiss for Racial Equality, he said he would not resist the change, which is supported by the Government, but would point out some difficulties.

Sir Paul condemned the inquiry's acci-dental release of details of police informants, saying that it had given police an enormous amount of work.

BY STEWART TENDLER CRIME CORRESPONDENT

A SENIOR black civil servant who advises ministers on race relations has been halted by police under stop and search powers more than 40 times. MPs were told yesterday. The case of Trevor Hall was

raised yesterday with Sir Paul

Condon, commissioner of the

Metropolitan Police, as he

mons select committee on home affairs on issues including police abuse of stop and search powers against black

In 17 years Mr Hall, now in his 50s, has been stopped on 44 occasions, 39 of which were by officers in London. His experience was once highlighted by a High Court judge during a lecture on race relations as

gave evidence to the Coman example of the racism and ignorance within the criminal justice system. Mr Hall, a member of the Home Office's community relations unit, acts as a consultant giving specialist advice on community and race relations policy and training covering the police as well as the Home Office, the prisons and probation service.

Yesterday the Home Office said that some of the stops

were part of police operations round the City of London dur-ing terrorist alerts and all drivers were affected.

Asked about Mr Hall, who acted as a go-between for the Lawrence family and the commissioner earlier this year, Sir Paul said he had met him sev eral times but he made no comment about the number of times the civil servant has



Prince sparks Falklands furore

Backing for self-determination upsets his Argentinian hosts, reports Alan Hamilton

THE Vice-President of Argentina accused the Prince of Wales of making "intolerable" comments about the Falkland islanders right to self-determination yesterday. Carlos Ruck-auf, in an interview with local radio. said: "The islanders have no right to self-determination, as the Prince sug-

gested in a typically British trap."

Some Argentinians were incensed
by the Prince's reference to the Falkland Islands in a speech to an official banquet hosted by President Menem in Buenos Aires on Tuesday night. He said: "My hope is that the people of modern, democratic Argentina, with their passionate attachment to their national traditions, will in the future be able to live amicably alongside the people of anoth-

er modern, if rather smaller, democracy lying a few hundred miles off your coast — a people just as pas-

sionately attached to their traditions - and be able to do so in a spirit of motual understanding and respect, so that neither will again need to feel any fear from, or hostility towards,

"Such an understanding can only reinforce our own friendship. To-day, so many old friendships be-tween us are being rebuilt." He concluded by toasting the Argentine na-tion in Spanish and received warm

But as the Prince spoke, 200 anti-

British demonstrators, some with banners proclaiming "Pirate Prince Go Home", banled with heavily armed police on the streets near by and burned the Union flag.

Senor Ruckauf belongs to a different faction of the Peronist Party to Señor Menern, and is frequently at odds with him. Last night, Guido di Tella, the Foreign Minister, issued a statement in an attempt to defuse the controversy. He said the mes-sage, delivered on the first day of the Prince's official visit, was directed chiefly at the islanders and not at

Argentina.
The Prince had asked that Argenti-

na respect a small democracy a few hundred miles off its shores, "Not only does the Argentine constitution offer guarantees that should make their worries unwarranted, they are also given by Argentina's interna-tional behaviour, commitment to peace and democracy, and the close and friendly relations it has with its neighbours and the large Western democracies. The Prince's wish coin-

cides fully with Argentina's wish". The Prince's comments, while not specifically mentioning the Falklands, caused some astonishment in the islands. Lisa Riddell, managing editor of the local newspaper, Penexpecting him to make any political references. It was a very tactful speech, but I think the people here will be delighted by what he said."

The Prince is due to arrive in the Falkland Islands on Saturday, "We were planning to welcome him warmly anyway, but now we will be even more enthusiastic," she said. According to La Nacion, Argenti-

na's leading daily newspaper, the Prince's reference to the Falkland Islands had been a rebuff to Señor Menem, who had suggested resuming direct flights from Argentina to islands. Clarin, another leading

daily, said that Foreign Ministry officials attending the banquet had looked uncomfortable during the speech and had "squirmed in their

Senior British sources said that it would have been surprising if, during his visit, the Prince had not made some oblique reference to the Falklands issue. "We did not detect any hostility. When President Menim was in London last year, he too referred to the islands without nam-

☐ Chile confirmed yesterday that it is to stop flights to the Falkland Islands in protest over Britain's treatcember the Chileans recognised Argentina's claims over the islands.



BY ADAM FRESCO

A FORMER model has been found dead in her flat, where she had lain for up to three months. Neighbours claimed that, during that time, her drug-addicted "friends" continued to use her premises to inject heroin.

Lisa Edwards, 33, died around Christmas from a suspected overdose after her promising future was destroyed by heroin and crack cocaine. Her body was discovered on Tuesday in her flat in Dulwich. southeast London, Police are not treating the death

Miss Edwards, who had a daughter, is believed to have tried to break her drug habit several times and had attended a detoxi-

Audrey Brown, a neighbour, said: To think I have been living so close and without realising Lisa was dead next door. The last time I saw Lisa she told me she was going away for a while. That was not unusual, so I didn't think anything

Esther Parsons, 43, a mother of four who lives in the flat below, said: "I last saw Lisa around Christmas, but we thought we could still hear footsteps in her flat. Even my daughter has heard people up there.

We have seen people go-ing up the stairs and then heard footsteps inside the flat. I just assumed they were junkies going to use the flat to take drugs. It never crossed my mind there could be a dead person lying there at the same



Lisa Edwards: career destroyed by drugs



The Prince of Wales dancing with Zulemita Menem

Tango revival puts sex back on dance floor

BY RUTH GLEDHILL

doubt the dance of illicit sex. Banned in Britain until 1907 because it was considered too erotic, the national dance of Argentina was not accepted in the tea salons of London and Paris until 1912. By then, it had been toned down to suit the demands of Western gentility. The more violent checks, sug-

gestive hip thrusts, leghooks

and foot swivels were re-

hree mente

i Jopine charge

A DOME

Once it no longer Jooked like simulated sex on the dance floor, the fashion for tango teas took off. The dance developed into the staccato, competitive ballroom style that can still be seen on Come Dancing

A combination of Spanish dance, the Cuban habanera and the sexy Argentinian milonga, tango emerged from the ghettos of Buenos Aires at the end of the last century. Recent West End tango

IF RUMBA is the dance of shows, such as Tango Por love, then tango is without Dos, and Sally Potter's film, The Tango Lesson, have helped to spark a revival in Britain.

On the social scene, the dance is returning to its highly-sexed, Argentinian roots. Once again it features complex foot swivels, leg kicks and eghooks. The woman's head is moving from a position of arrogant extension out of the man's right arm to one of seductive promise, tucked beneath his chin or on his right shoulder

The most successful male tango dancers are those who radiate arrogance and dominance. Violent actions designed to subtine a fiery female pariner are at a premium. But it takes two to tango.

The woman has to learn a poise that suggests both promise and unavailability at the same time. To the fiery Argentinians, it is a poise that seems

Parker Bowles's secret fashion trip CAMILLA PARKER BOWLES made Lisa Armstrong on surprise at McCartney show

an unannounced appearance at the Chloë fashion show in Paris yesterday. Not even Stella McCartney, the designer, knew that she was coming.

The Prince of Wales's companion slipped quietly into a front-row seat or as quietly as possible in the presence of 500 photographers and 800 journalists. She arrived with Lord Douro, a friend who has a seat on the board of Vendôme Luxury Group, which owns Chloë, and sat between him and another friend, Mounir Moufarrige, the Leb-anese-Prench managing director of Chloë, who lives in London.

She was not accompanied by a Scotland Yard escort. "If only we'd known les was dressed in a navy skirt suit and

she was coming," said a harassed public relations worker, "we could have favourite designers. arranged better security. It's a night-

Camilla Parker Bowles - with her Chloë handbag - in a front-row seat at the fashion house's show in Paris yesterday

mare, what with having to provide cover for Sir Paul [McCartney] as well." French security employees removed. journalists, including this one, who had the temerity to note down what she was wearing, mainly to while away the time while Marianne Faithfull, Mick Hucknell, Patsy Kensit, Anita Palienberg and the rest of the audience awaited the arrival of Sir Paul, the designer's father. For the record, Mrs Parker Bow-

white top from Valentino, one of her

... The fashion show appearance has become one of the PR ploys of the Nine-ties, obviously beneficial to the designers, who are guaranteed blanket coverage in the world's press, but also of strac use to the guests. Withess Demi Moore's appearance at every fashion show a few seasons ago in her campaign to win a film role as Coco Chanel; Woody Allen and Soon-Yi at Armani, when Allen was seeking to rehabilitate himself with the press; and Minnie Driver at the Halston Show in

Mrs Parker Bowles "does wear quite a lot of Chloe". Hard to credit, frankly, given the skinny trousers and peekaboo crocheted lace shirts tied at the waist that McCartney sent out to a rock n'roll soundtrack.

Mounir Moufarrige maintained that

Each season McCartney's cut and fit improves. This was a collection packed Everything, including the evening wear, was accessorised with chunky heeled boots.

And which Chloë designs lurk in Mrs Parker Bowles's wardrobe? "Er. she's carrying one of our handbags," said Mr Moufarrige.

Lunch club nears its last sitting Attacker mistook sex of victim



Grenfell: food for thought

NORTH WEST CORRESPONDENT

THEY once gathered in their hundreds to join the "bun-fight" at the buffet before set-tling down to listen to politicians, professors and the occasional film star expounding

on a vital issue of the day. But the Manchester Luncheon Club may be killed off after 77 years by the modern business culture that demands a sandwich and a botthe desk. Ann Boulton, club known as the bunfight be-resident, said: "We have a long, proud tradition but this pick up a plate and dig in." said Mrs Boulton. reflects the general tone of the modern city, whereby family firms have been taken over by Speakers included Hugh Gaitskell, Lady Astor, Ernest

corporations or multination-Rutherford, Heath Robinson, als. People just do not have the time for long lunches." Joyce Grenfell, Anna Neagle and Bobby Charlton. More are booked for coming The club was the idea of Sir months, but then the club may Raymond Streat, the town go out with a bang. Mrs Boulclerk, who wanted a place for workers to to be sustained inton, 60, said that members tellectually as well as nutritionwere being asked to consider spending the club's bank bal-ance on a splendid final lunch. ally. "There used to be a running buffet, which came to be

By A CORRESPONDENT

A SEX attacker who mistakenly snatched a long-haired man off the street, believing him to be a woman, cannot be placed on the sex offenders' register because of a loophole in the law, a court ruled yesterday. Stefan Cichosz, 22, was jailed for a year. He had abducted his 20-year-old victim in an underpass in central Scotland and had

beaten him when he realised his error. Stirling Sheriff Court was told that Cichosz, unemployed, stalked his target, then attacked when the victim was walk-ing through an underpass. Placing his arm around the man's neck and holding

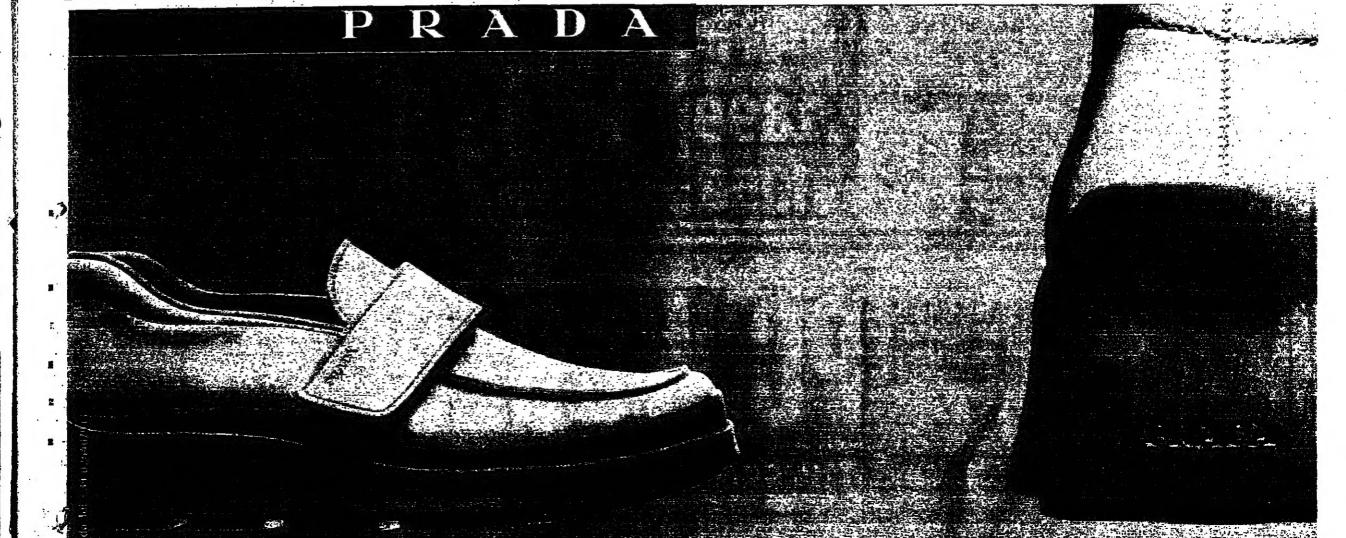
what he said was a knife to his back, he forced him to a secluded riverside path. where he grabbed the back of his head and threw him to the ground.

Angry and frustrated after realising his mistake, he began throwing punches to the head and upper body,, causing minor injuries. Cichosz, from Stirling, was later arrested and admitted assault and detaining the man against his will on January 3. Karina Duffy, the Depute Fiscal, said

that, when Cichosz was interviewed by the police, it became clear he had launched the attack for sexual motives. The complainer has long hair and, from the back, gave the appearance that he was a woman. The accused told police he had had a lot to drink that evening," she said. The Sheriff, Robert Younger, agreed with her that despite the original motive for the attack, Cichosz could not be placed on the sex offenders' register because the

charges were not sexual.

Linda Smith, for the defence, said Cichosz was a first offender, single, and living with his mother and father. "He had taken a quantity of vodka and had experiences in the past of a personality change when drinking spirits. This incident has come out of the blue," she said. "He has shown genuine remorse and lost his job and his girlfriend through this."



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JOHN DIAMOND Diary of Courage

⁶In January I wrote that my cancer was now incurable. As a result my mailbag quintupled



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Why British shoppers get a raw deal

By Christine Buckley, industrial correspondent

and Industry Secretary, is right that shoppers in this country are paying more for consumer goods than people

We are being charged more for cars, groceries, clothes and CDs. At first the complaints were based on anecdotal evidence, but there have now been several investigations of

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TODAY

STEPHEN BYERS, the Trade the huge price gaps. Now the trical appliances, clothes and Government is to do its own. Retailers will no longer be able to get away with over-

> A survey by Beuc, the Brussels-based consumer group, recently found that the this country was the most expensive in Europe for a range of goods it surveyed which included audio, video, and elec-

Comment of the Commen

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sports shoes. It found that car radios in London were 36 per cent more expensive than in Rome, and that stereos were 30 per cent dearer in London.

than in Aachen, Germany. A study of car prices by the European Commission found that some cars can cost half as much again in this country than in continental countries despite Britain being a fairly big manufacturer of cars.

A report soon to be pub-lished by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development is expected to show that the gaps have widened between prices since its last report in 1995 and that goods and services are the most expensive in the UK than most comparable countries. The last report found that UK shoppers paid 29 per cent more for cars and motorbikes and 31

per cent more for sports gear. The arrival of the euro will heighten the consumer's feeling of injustice, as it will bring greater priice transparency.

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ment, it is not a simple case of The action by the Government to get tough on retailers profiteering

Cuisine Bourgeois

Shopping in Boulogne may not be such a tempting prospect for British shoppers once high prices here are tackled

Trading is investigating car sales, supermarkets, private medicine and over-the-counter drugs. The car sales industry could even be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission after the Trade and Industry Select Commit-tee berated the dealerships for anti-competitive actions.

Consumers may at last have friends in the right places. But as retailers and others who stand accused of high charging will tell the Govern-

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are higher than many of their international counterparts. This is as much a problem for British business as it is for the high-street shopper.

When McKinsey, the management consultants, pro-duced a report for the Treasury on why Britain languished low in the ranks of international competitiveness and productivity it highlighted the high cost of land and planning restrictions. Land is more expensive in this country because there is less of it than in the United States, France or Ger-

many. Furthermore, the Gov-

fleet car buyers. Energy costs are another obstacle. Big business users have consistently complained about high power costs in the electric-

ernment is not keen on more

out-of-town shopping centres being built. This limits super-

markets: abilities to make

blocks to cheap prices such as when one high-street retailer

controls much of the market in

one area. Or as in the case of

car selling where ordinary cus-tomers are forced to subsidise

cheap deals for the company

There are, of course, other

economy-of-scale savings.

ity market. The market is now about to be abolished.

There are many problems and anomalies which force UK consumers to pay more than they need to for goods. The Government has much work to do but shaming the culprits, followed by tougher powers which are being given to the OFT have to be a good start. The OFT has pursued high price seners in the past but its lack of teeth has meant many retailers have been able to merely say sorry and then do it all again. They will soon

Prescott acts to cut water costs

By Valerie Elliott WHITEHALL EDITOR

THE drive to cut water bills for households and industry is being led by John Prescott. the Deputy Prime Minister. He has told Ian Byatt, head

of Ofwat, the water regulator. that he believes the water companies have enough cash to cut bills by 10 per cent. Mr Byatt is negotiating with the 26 water companies

over their pricing regimes for the five years from April next

Mr Prescott is concerned that there is too much variation in prices for water for touseholds in various parts of the country. He is particularly concerned that pensioners and poor families might be disadvantaged by a company's charging policy. There have been particular com-plaints in the southwest of England, which has a hìgh level of pensioner households. Their average bill for water and sewerage is £125, compared with an average bill of E99 for customers of Thames

Water Utilities. Officials at the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions have started negotiations with the water industry chiefs. Mr



Water: firms can afford bill cuts, says Prescott

Prescott is determined to find a way of breaking the mono poly of water companies sup-

plying industry.

The main difficulty is that there is no equivalent national grid for water like that for electricity and gas, but one option being discussed is the possibility of companies in sites bordering two water company areas to be able to choose their supplier.

The same option is not being considered for house-

Officials have only just started work on the project and Mr Prescott is not expected to see a discussion paper for at

Congestion may force flight curbs

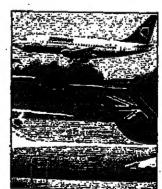
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

RESTRICTIONS on

The Deputy Prime Minister is concerned that too much reliance on airports around the capital is limiting the expansion of regional airports. BAA. Britain's biggest airport operator, dismisses sugestions that its ownership of three London airports - Hea-

found no evidence that it has abused its dominant position. However, Mr Prescott will

be looking closely at ways in which big airlines such as British Airways have switched landing slots between the three airports.



Airports: crowding is leading to hard choices

grandfather slots" to airlines. which can keep them indel nitely as long as they are in use, has prompted claims of anti-competitive behaviour by smaller carriers. British Airways retains 40 per cent of 1 Heathrow slots but can switch them to a new route if a rival moves into a fresh market.

Severe overcrowding at Heathrow has forced British Airways to make much great- 4 er use of Stansted and Gatwick. Some rival airlines fear the carrier could be securing short-haul slots at the two less congested airports in readiness for further expansion into the American market.

socies Sear O Callaghan on The Ultimate Terrorists - page Peter Porter poems - pa



BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY

number of flights to Britain's busiest airports could be introduced to relieve airport congestion. John Prescott is to head an inquiry into airport competition that will examine whether landing slots are being shared fairly among airlines and if some traffic could be diverted from London.

throw, Garwick and Stansted encourages anti-competitive behaviour. It points to previous investigations by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission which have

The allocation of so-called

TODAY IN Section 2 ANTS:

New Mass Roben Williams in

Parth Adams - page 36, Who has brand of Stabiley Kubucki - page 38



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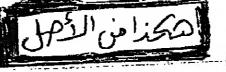
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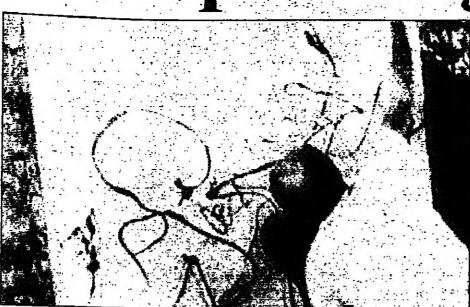
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Computer figures out Pollock





HUNDREDS of photographs and films documenting Jack-son Pollock at work on his famous action paintings have been fed into a computer, sug-gesting through digitised imagery that his art was not as abstract as it has seemed.

· Figures and objects have emerged through a mass of ab-straction, which he created by pouring and dripping paint directly on to a canvas.

Simon Wilson, curator of interpretation at the Tate Gallery - where a Pollock retrospective opens today - explained that digitised versions of 500 photographs revealed how Pollock started with figurative ideas — outlines of fig-He added: "The critical ap-

The arch-Modernist was not quite as abstract as the critics thought, writes Dalya Alberge

recently was that he represent-ed the high points of Modern-ism . . . and complete abstraction. The answer is that he wasn't quite as abstract as he

has been made out to be."

The American artist him-

Britain for more than 40 years, is expected to attract around 2,000 a day - more than 200,000 visitors during its run until June 6, which will ures achieved by the Sargent and Bonnard exhibitions. In was first seen, it was attracting 4,000 a day. As the catalogue explains,

photographs and films docuing the working process had always seemed to provide "the definitive proof that there were no figurative images hidwebs". The contact sheets of

New York.

tween the late 1930s and early 1940s which the artist's widow donated to the Metropolitan in

"One of the common criti-cisms made of Pollock is that he can't draw," said Mr Wil-

through to extraordinary Surrealist fantasies. They also in-clude drawings of Old Master paintings." It is the first time the sketchbooks have been en in Europe: "They startled

The rising costs of falling actors

BY DALYA ALBERGE

THE perils of treading the boards have struck home to the Royal Shakespeare Company and Royal National Theatre. They have each had to pay substantial damages to actor. who injured themselves.

in separate out-of-court set tlements, the RSC paid £50,000 to Peter Warnock. who slipped during a produc tion of A Christmas Carol at RNT paid £19,500 for injuries suffered by Maria Friedman when she fell from a tightrope Dark at the Lyttleton in 1997.

The argument in Warnock's case was that he had been given incorrect footwear and should have had anti-slip soles. His fall caused severe bruising and swelling to his ankle, preventing him from do ing some work in Los Angeles. Friedman, who is now in Chicago in the West End, top pled from a tightrope during rehearsals in the scenery docl of the Lyttleton, hitting a wall and injuring her shoulder.

Prescott acts

THE MP Mohammed Sarwar was cleared of understating his election expenses at the High Court in Edinburgh yesterday shortly before he appeared to give evidence. The MP for Glasgow Govan, who still faces two charges

of attempting to pervert the course of justice, told the court he had received racist death threats. The court heard that the MP was told by Badar Is-lam, the election rival he is alleged to have bribed with ger. Mr Sarwar, who said that told the jury that in 1996 he was attacked by three people who broke his ankle. He did not report the incident to the police for fear of embarrassing the Labour Party and jeop-ardising his chance of being selected to stand in Govan.

Mr Sarwar said he was shocked to learn that the News of World was to publish a story alleging that the MP

expenses charge By Gillian Harris, scotland correspondent bribed Mr Islam. He said be and his wife were on their way to a wedding reception when he received a call from a reporter who told him that a

Sarwar cleared of

were The bastards have trapped me. Mr. Sarwar told the coust.

Mr Sarwar said that there was anger towards him in Giasgow after he flew to Pakistan in 1995 to bring back two

story was to alleging that the MP had given his rival a £5,000 bribe to run a losing

campaign. "My exact words

girls allegedly forced into ar-The court heard that the £5,000, delivered to Mr Islam in a bag omside a library, was not a bribe but a loan. Mr Sarwar claimed that Mr Islam, whom he knew to be a gambler, telephoned him begging for money. Mr Islam alleged-ly said his house was threat-

his son was ill in hospital. The case continues.

self, who died in 1956, said in that year: "I'm very representational some of the time, and a little all of the time." The exhibition, the first in

all the negatives have been studied in the rough sequence in which they were taken: "Advances in computer technology and software have made it possible to merge details from different photographs, Almost

tion were subsequently over-painted." At one point, Pollock can be seen outlining "the contours of a figure".

Another aspect of the show will highlight Pollock's draughtsmanship. The Tate

all Pollock lovers. He could

Leading article, page 23

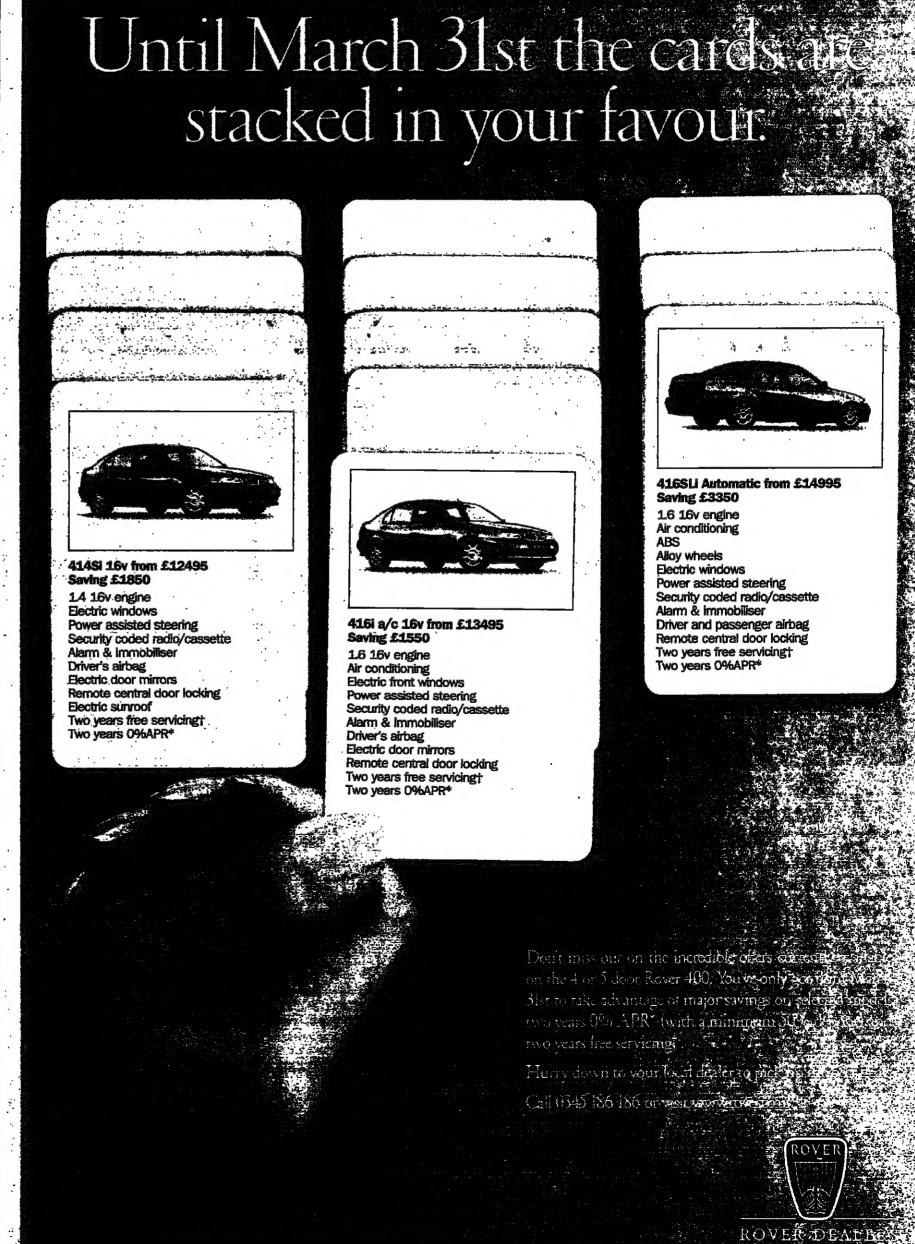
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Inspectors accuse schools of racism

John O'Leary and Hannah Betts on

a claim of institutional prejudice

MANY schools are institutionally racist, despite the best intentions of their teachers, inspectors said yesterday after criticising underachievement among ethnic-minority pupils.

The Office for Standards in Schools did not even know how their ethnic-minority pupils.

Education expressed concern about the progress made by Pakistani, Bangladeshi, black Caribbean and Gypsy children. Although results were improving, boys in particular continued to lag behind other

ethnic groups. Launching the survey of 25. English local education authorities, Cliff Gould, Ofsted's head of secondary inspection, echoed the description of the Metropolitan Police in last month's report by Sir William Macpherson of Cluny on the murder of Stephen Lawrence. "I think the way that some commentators are defining in-stitutional racism, certainly it would apply to many schools.

minority pupils were faring compared with white pupils. Only half of secondary schools and one in 24 primary schools monitored achievement according to ethnic groupings.

The authors of the survey urged schools to do more to tackle the problems of prejudice and stereotyping. schools do not take a stand, what hope is there for breaking the vicious circle of these corrosive forces which exist in society at large?"

Equal opportunities policies had had limited impact. Fewer than a quarter of the authorities had a clear strategy for raising the attainment of eth-



The survey found that boys, in particular, in some ethnic minorities continued to lag behind other ethnic groups

ly a third monitored that attainment. Bangladeshi and Pakistani children performed poorly in primary school, but did better as their English improved. Black Caribbeans, by contrast, tended to start school well but to become disillusioned even before the end of primary education. By the time they took GCSE, the survey said, their results were the worst of all the ethnic groups and they were by far the most

likely to be expelled.

Gypsy children, who were included in the survey at the request of the Department for Education and Employment,

sults. Many opted out of education at an early age and, in half of the schools surveyed, no member of the group had sat a GCSE examination.

Jim Rose, Ofsted's head of primary inspection. said schools faced serious prob-lems. "Which of us, never mind schools, has not felt guilty from time to time of unwitting prejudice? It is extra-ordinarily difficult to imagine that schools are not going to fall foul of this occasionally."
The comments did nothing

placase seachers' leaders, who insisted that their members were sensitive to issues of race. Nigel de Gruchy, general sec-

retary of the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers, said: Accusing schools of institutional racism is outrageous and counterproductive. The report recognises that most schools are trying hard, have the right policies in place and that the majority of teachers are not intentionally racist. It is profoundly unhelpful to have foolish charges levelled by individuals who are keen to

Doug McAvoy, general sec-retary of the National Union of Teachers, gave a guarded welcome to the report. "At

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long last Ofsted has recog-nised the importance and contribution of schools in tackling racism. But teachers will interpret the term institutional racism' as an attack on them. Teachers are not racist."

Charles Clarke, the Schools Standards Minister, also rejected the term. Speaking at a conference on ethnic-minority achievement, he said: "We have over 25,000 schools in Britain. With such a diverse system, I don't think that the phrase 'institutional racism' helps clarify either the overall situation or helps outline the appropriate courses of action to be followed."

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HOW ETHNIC GROUPS FARE

The Ofsted survey, which monitored ad sutherities in England, shows the strengths and weaknessed of the Efferent groups and how boys fare compared with ghis

Bangladeshi

The smallest of the main ethnic groups, Bangladeshis are also among the least likely to have been born in Britain. Language problems depress performance at primary level, where their results are causing concern. By GCSE, they have made up ground, but are less likely than other Asians to stay on in education and more likely to end up with manual jobs. Girls do slightly better than boys.

Percentage of population 0.3 GCSE [5.4°C] 1996: 25% CCSE (5 A.C) 1998: 33% School exclusions per 1,000 pupils: 9 Percentage of 1998 higher education entrants: 0.6

Caribbean

Ot all the ethnic groups, black Caribbean pupils' results are causing most concern. After a generally good start at school, results fall away even before the end of primary education. They have the lowest scores at GCSE, by far the highest exclusion rate and are the most likely to leave school at 16. Girls do better than boys except in maths and

Percentage of population: 0.9 QCSE (5 A'-C) 1996: 23%

ions per 1.000 pupils: 160

Chinese and other Asian groups from outside the Indian sub-continent are by far the most successful in educational terms. Although only 0,7 per cent of the UK population, they are well represented in selective schools and universities, more than 30 per cent staying in education after the age of 16. They are also the least likely to be excluded from school.

Percentage of population 0.7 GCSE (5 A°-C) 1998 61% School exchalons per 1,000 pupils: 5 Percentage of 1998 higher education entrants: 2

More than a quarter of the ethnic-minority population is of Indian descent, and their members comfortably outscore their white counterparts in minations. Those in education are more likely than other Asian groups to have been born in Britain, so do not face the same language problems. At least two thirds stay on in education after 16.

Percentage of population 1.5 GCSE (5 A'-C) 1998: 54% School exclusions per 1,000 pupils: 22 Percentage of 1998 higher education entrants: 4.0

Pakistani

One of the largest ethnic minority groups, with almost 1 per cent of the population, Pakistani pupils tend to do poorly in primary school, but catch up as their English improves. GCSE results have risen during the Ninebes, but are still low by comparison with other groups. More than half — more boys than girls — stay in education beyond the age of 16 and university entry is growing.

Percentage of population: 0.9 GCSE (5 A*C) 1996: 23% 1998: 29% School exclusions pag 1,000 papers 35 Perceptage of 1998 higher education entrests 2.2

White

National averages for white pupils disguise enormous differences between social groups: working class boys, for mple, are as big a concern to ministers as any ethnic group. Even without such distinctions, white teenagers are more likely than blacks or Asians to leave school at the first opportunity. They are also marginally main ethnic groups.

Percentage of acculation: 94.5 GCSE (5 A*C) 1998: 47% School exclusions per 1,000 profes: 28 Percentage of 1998 higher education entrants: 89.8

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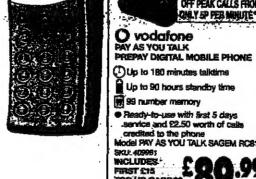






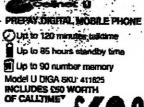




















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THE TIMES THURSDAY MARCH 11 1999

Hypnosis is last gasp for 700 smokers

Richard Duce, a 20-a-day man, joins a theatre full of people hoping to kick the habit for No Smoking Day

IF THE people who packed a theatre for a display of mass hypnosis are to be believed. 700 men and women gave up smoking yesterday.

Cigarette butts littered the pavement outside the New London theatre as hundreds of smokers took what they hoped would be their last nicotine fix while queueing to see the hyp-notist Paul McKenna. They had tried everything else nico-tine patches, nicotine inhalers and plain willpower had all failed for the addicts who travelled from across London and the Home Counties after McKenna offered free mass hypnosis to coincide with National No Smoking Day. All voiced similar reasons

for another attempt to ditch the habit included in by 12 mil-lion people, of whom eight mil-lion would rather quit. Jenny O'Connell, a murse with a 20-a-day habit, said: "It is for health and money reasons. They went up again in the



McKenna: had 700 people

Budget. I am just sick of being a smoker, coughing in the morning and smelling of stale

Caroline Palmer, 28, arimit-ted she rather fancied a man who had recently quit smoking 60 a day and was now a clous convert. If she too, could give up, perhaps she was in with a chance. "I'm really hoping its going to work."

She was there with two

friends from North London. Catherine Edwards, 29, a fit-ness instructor, and Catherine White, 26, who works in advertising. "If one us stops then I think we will all stop, but the real test will be when we are out together having a drink," Miss Palmer said.

All the people interviewed both before and after the show agreed to be contacted by *The Times* in the months to come to see if McKenna had aided their resolve to quit.
Inside the auditorium the

hypnotist first asked people to et rid of their cigareties if they were determined to quit. He was bombarded with a hundred or more half-filled

Eventually he built up to the main event as he attempted to put the entire audience into a trance. They closed their eyes and, counting backwards from 300, listened to the soporific rythm of the his voice as he urged them to think how much better life would be if they gave up. Of course, if you still needed help, his stopsmoking casette was on sale in the coffee shop.

After the event, organised



Kicking the habit: Maria Valkenborghs, left, Peta Darling, centre, and Gill Hicks were determined to give up and optimistic that McKenna might be the man to help them to do

by Capital Radio, as the audience drifted home or back to work, no one was going to be seen to light up. Those who stayed behind swapped experiences and said they now

thought they could quit.

Maria Valkenborghs, 37, a product manager from Richmond, southwest London. said: "I feel good. I don't feel like a cigarette at the moment. I heard about this on the radio yesterday and took a day off to be here. I thought I had to give

sultant from Ealing, West London, who has smoked 20 a day for the past 23 years, said: "I feel very determined. I threw away my packet of cigarettes yesterday and have a patch on." Peta Darling, a theatre worker, also from Ealing,

said: "I feel that just some of the techniques he mentioned will help me to make a conscious effort to stop." After a typical 30-plus minute journey through London traffic to The Times offices

The first helpline aimed at helping pregnant women to give up smoking is to be set up later this year. Smoking while pregnant is known to be extremely harmful: the babies of women who smoke are small-er and less likely to survive

than those of non-smokers.

Tessa Jowell, the Public Health Minister, announced the move during a visit to Quit, the national charity which helps people to stop

smoking. She said: "Smoking kills 120,000 people in Britain every

year. And every year, while it is killing 120,000 people, it is harming thousands of babies in the womb. That can't be

"Seven out of ten adult smokers want to quit. That includes thousands of pregnant women every year who want to quit, not only for their own health, but for the health of their baby in the womb.

"Smoking during pregnan-cy harms the unborn baby and leads to lower birthweight. Babies of smoking parents are more likely to suffer ill-

ness or even cot death. We must provide pregnant smok-ers with all the help we can to stop smoking."

The Government-funded service is part of a strategy aimed at cutting the propor-tion of pregnant women who smoke from 23 per cent to 15 per cent by 2010, which will mean persuading 55,000 people to give up. It will be includ-ed as part of wider arrangements for a national smoking helpline. Funding will come from a £50 million public edu-

cation package.

to provide an "intensive pro-gramme of counselling supneeds of each individual". She added: "We want a service which reaches women early in their pregnancy, is accessible, flexible, and provides continued support throughout and

beyond the pregnancy.

"Experience from home and overseas suggests that providing pregnant women with this type of support can double their chances of quitting suc-



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Suicide in custody 'a voluntary decision'

By Elizabeth Judge

THE girlfriend of a man who committed suicide in police custody was not entitled to £8,690 damages because it was his choice to kill himself,

law lords were told yesterday.
Sheila Reeves was incligible
for compensation from the
Metropolitan Police, David
Pannick, QC, said, because Martin Lynch, who was facing deception charges, had committed "a voluntary act by a person of sound mind".

Mr Lynch hanged himself in March 1990. He had already made one attempt to kill himself that day. Sir Paul Condon, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, was challenging a ruling by the Court of Appeal in November 1997 that the force should pay damages to Ms Reeves. The court ruled that the force had failed in its responsibility to take care of Mr Lynch by leaving open a flap in his cell door, on which

he tied a shirt as a ligature.
Nicholas Blake, QC, for Ms
Reeves, pointed out that in
1968 the Home Office had instructed all police authorities that cell flaps should not be left open because of the suicide risk. The hearing continues.

Accusers are liars, says war crime man

BY A CORRESPONDENT

A RETIRED British Rail ticket collector denied murdering Jews during the Nazi occupa-tion of his home town in Bela-rus, an Old Bailey jury was

told yesterday.

Anthony Sawoniuk told police investigating war crimes:

"No one can put a finger on me that I killed a Jew. The people who gave you that eviover there will tell you anyhing for a couple of bob."

He said that people still living in Domachevo knew nothing about what went on dur-ing the Second World War. They are liars. They want to destroy my life," he said. Mr Sawoniuk, 77, of south-

east London, denies four charges of inurdering Jews while a member of a police unit in Domachevo in 1942. He is accused of collaborating with the Nazis and leading police squads to hunt down Jews

trying to escape massacre. He said when interviewed in 1996 that to be accused of killing Jews was idiotic. "I used to work for them. They gave me food. I could not go against those people."

The case resumes on Mon-

day. (PA News)





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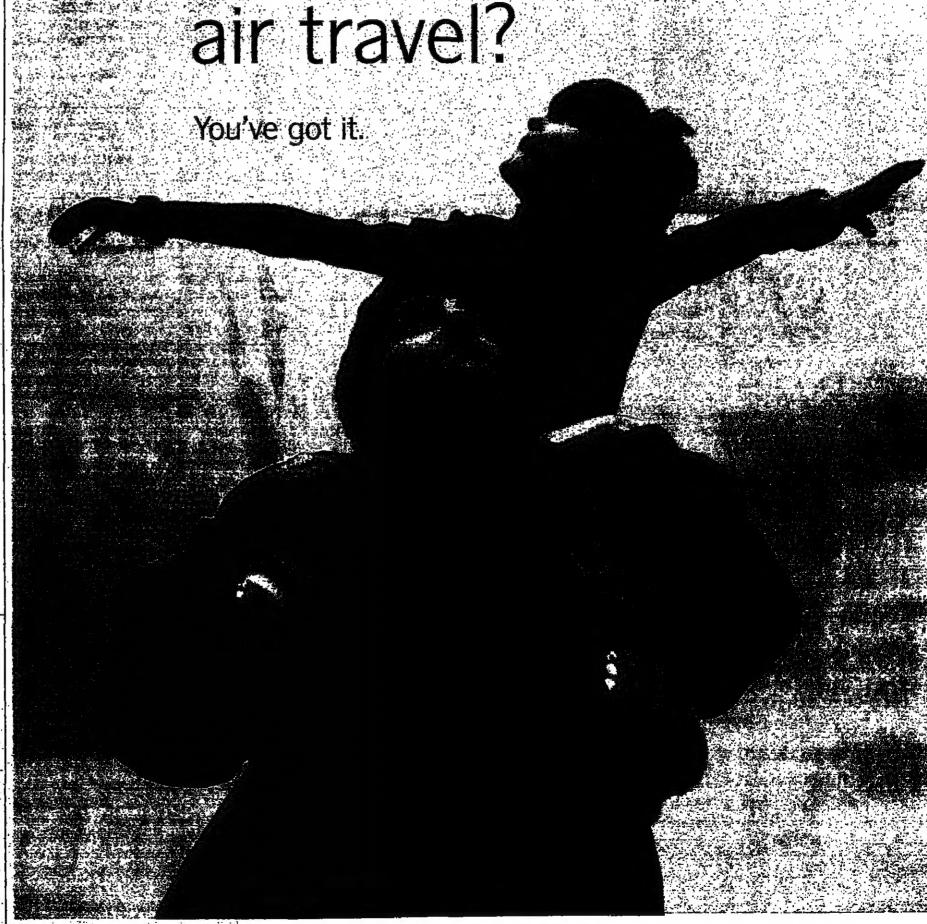
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'As bad as it gets' in the NHS

Ian Murray reports on a nurse's despairing tale about the daily dilemmas caused by understaffing

THE time was 11pm, two hours after the nurse coming off the ward was supposed to have finished her shift. She sat down and wrote a letter to Christine Hancock, general secretary of the Royal College of Nursing, spelling out the dilemma of working for the

The staff nurse had been forced to choose which of her needy patients to give attention to. Two had just had operations: one had unstable blood pressure that needed constant monitoring in case of a stroke; the other had an unstable blood sugar level that threatened to plunge him into shock.

Another patient was in severe pain from a catheter. A confused patient kept trying to jump out of bed. 'The other 13 patients were shouting for bottles, bedpans, pain relief — or just to talk."

Miss Hancock read the letter from the "tired and despairing" nurse to delegates at the college's annual conference in Harrogate yesterday. It illustrated how shortages of wellqualified staff were so acute that nurses had to ignore some seriously ill patients so that they could look after others, she said.

Having to choose between acutely ill patients equally deserving of a nurse's skills was as bad as the job could get, she

ing that you can't do your job properly forces many nurses to quit the NHS."

Nurses were under such pressure because hospitals were trying to save money by replacing senior grades with juniors and auxiliaries. "We need - patients need - to be clear what a safe nursing skill mix really means. The Government needs to listen.

"Nurses need the power to define what safe staffing levels are. Weakening the skill mix is not about saving money. It is wasting money and it has got

Nurses had to make management and patients understand how central they were to healthcare. "We need to become much better at communicating nurses' contribution to health improvement. We don't have any credibility unless we can show that extra registered nurses improve the quality of The problem for nurses was

that their skills were often in-

visible. "Few people understand what we do. They think we are helpful, they think we are kind, they think we are ministering angels, but often people haven't got a clue what nurses are actually doing. The trouble is, because few people understand what we do, nursing is undervalued. We get cut out of the loop too easily."

New performance indica-



Christine Hancock addressing Royal College of Nursing delegates yesterday on the dilemma created on the wards by a shortage of qualified staff

tors were needed to highlight the importance of nursing care and to measure the "human touch". "We've got league tables for death rates, why not have them for the incidents of pressure sores, for pain management, nutritional standards, or the number of pa-tients who say that their dis-

planned? When we know how important murses are to quality patient care, when we know more registered nurses mean death rates are cut by 5 per cent, why not publish information on staffing levels, the skill mix of qualified and unqualified nursing staff and staff

not enough, Miss Hancock said. "Many of our hospitals are depressing, dirty, demoralising buildings long past their sell-by date. Even if the buildings are sound, inside you will often find the paint is flaking. windows are grimy and the sheets haven't been changed.

The environment of care is Care statistics alone were not just about bricks and mor-

tar. It is about noise, equipment and patients' basic rights to privacy and dignity. It means an end to the humiliation of mixed-sex wards."

The congress, which earlier this week reluctantly approved this year's 4.7 per cent pay award for most nurses, cheered her when she said that to halt declining standards. Pay alone was not the whole answer, however. There is something about

the culture of mursing that is almost shy about describing our impact on patient care. We can't afford to be shy any more. The real healthcare chal-

NEWS IN BRIEF Care home 'negligent'

over death

A care home that charges up to £1.800 a week was accused yesterday of gross negligence after a patient was found dead in a ditch. Alan Craze, the East Sussex Coroner, recorded a verdict of neglect after hearing how John Hanaphy, 41, a former postman, was able to wander off to his death. His body was found 12 days later in woodland near The Vine care home, run by Libra Health, in Crowborough. East Sussex. Staff had let standards of vigilance drop. the coroner said. "In my view there was gross negligence."

Walker dies

An inexperienced walker has been found dead by a mountain rescue team in a part of Derbyshire's Peak District blanketed in waist-high snow. Police had been searching for Duc Thu Do. 38, from Leicester, since Sunday.

1.45

1.00

Treasure returns

Scotland Yard will today hand back important antiqui-ties to Egypt that had been smuggled out of the country by Jonathan Tokeley-Parry, a restorer who disguised them as trinkets. They include five tomb reliefs and 27 papyri.

Family found

Amanda Sparrow, 20, and her children Stephanie, 3. Abigail, 2 and Sophie, 8 months, who vanished from Southampton on Friday, have been found in Biackburn. Sophie had been admitted to hospital with dehydration and hypothermia.

Self-drive bus

A bus passenger who had slept past his stop drove off from a Birmingham depot in a double-decker whose engine had been left running, picking up a woman passenger on the way. He faces two criminal and two driving charges.

Moth invasion

Hundreds of Indian meal moths that hatched in a packet of bird seed forced a couple to leave their home and have it fumigated. Peter and Christine Lightfoot. of Reading specification weeks in an hood before thorning home.

Designer vouchers give young cyclists a head start



DESIGNER cycling helmets costing up to £60 will be available "on prescrip-tion" thanks to a campaign by the Roy-al College of Nursing to make them

Under the scheme, to be launched in two weeks, cyclists will be able to colect a voucher from health centres and GPs' surgeries that will entitle them to a helmet with the prestigious Bell label at a cost of only £8.50.

The RCN campaign, backed at its annual congress in Harrogate yesterday. was inspired by a nurse in whose arms a 13-year-old boy dled from head injuries he received in a cycling accident. "He had gorgeous blond hair," said

Angela Lee, a paediatric trauma nurse at the Royal Berkshire Hospital in "There was no a mark on him, but his brain was mush. We Ian Murray on a campaign that has led to top-label helmets going 'on prescription'

nursed him for eight months, but in the end he died in my arms."

Three weeks later, a 14-year-old boy was taken to the hospital with a serious brain injury after a cycling accident. "I decided enough was enough and something had to be done," Miss Lee said. She founded the Bicycle Helmet Initiative Trust and set about gathering the facts to prove that helmets would save lives and prevent permanent brain

damage. The case of the 14-year-old boy high lighted the difficulties in getting children to wear helmets. "He was a streetwise, tough kid who thought it would never happen to him, so he didn't wear a helmet," Miss Lee said. "Like so many children he thought only nerds wore helmets."

She found that children were happier to wear a helmet if it had a designer label. But these can cost from £40 to £60, compared with the unlabelled varieties, which sell for about £12.50.

Every year, 200 cyclists are killed and 4,500 seriously injured on Britain's roads. About 70 per cent of those killed and 50 per cent of those injured have head injuries. The campaign Miss Lee started in-Reading in 1993 has led to a trebling of the number of helmets worn

The RCN has run into opposition to its campaign for compulsory helmets from cyclist organisations who claim

and a 45 per cent reduction in head inju-

ries in the town.

that they would interfere with freedom of choice. They say that, in Australia, fewer people rode bicycles after all cyclists were forced by law to wear helmets. Miss Lee said this fall proved only temporary and, since then, New Zea-

two Canadian provinces had made helmets compulsory. The RCN will now lobby the Government to get Britain to follow their example. The compulsory helmets scheme, a joint initiative between the RCN and the helmet manufacturer Bell, does not

involve any public money- 🛧 🚎 🤻

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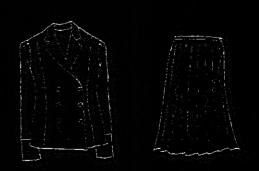
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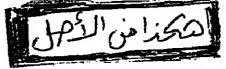
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Urgent plan to stop London flooding

Disaster caused by rapidly rising water table could be averted with boreholes, reports Nick Nuttall

A NETWORK of 50 boreholes, able to siphon off billions of litres of water a year, is to be drilled to save London's buildings and Underground network from Society.

work from flooding.

The scheme, drawn up by companies and organisations including Thames Water, the Environment Agency and the Association of British Insurers, follows alarm over rising groundwater levels under London since the loss of water-hungry industries such as brewing and engineering.

Experts fear that, unless urgent action is taken, buildings with deep foundations and basements, some underground car parks, telecommunications and electricity cables and parts of the Tube may become unstable in as little as five years.

The £10 million project could become a blueprint for other cities — including Birmingham, Manchester, Paris and Milan — where a rising water table is a threat.

John Sexton, of Tharnes Water, said the water table was rising by as much as three me-

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tres a year. "It is time to act, not to delay. In five years we will have a real threat on our

hands," he said.

A spokesman for London Underground said yesterday that the water table was 100 metres below Trafalgar Square in about 1905. In the 1950s it was recovering and stood at about 80m below Sir Edwin Landseer's lions. By 1995 it had climbed to about 50m below street level and it was now about 40m.

It has put the water table within reach of some of the deepest parts of the Underground network and deep foundations in the City of London, some of which are only 20m below the ground.

While the rate of recovery

has slowed, the water table is still on course to return to its natural level of between 20 and zero metres below street level in areas of Westminster and the City by 2010.

The London Underground

The London Underground has spent £100 million in the past few years on securing parts of the network, including sections of the Bakerloo



The Millennium Dome: already has a borehole

and Northern lines that were in danger of flooding and short-circuiting. But there remain worries that the rising water table will put pressure on the clay soil and trigger subsidence of sensitive equipment such as escalators.

Experts fear that some buildings with deep foundations may "pop out of the ground" unless action is taken to lower the water table.

the water table.

Mr Sexton said the scheme, to be unveiled next week at a conference organised by the City of London for business leaders and the government of-

fice for London, will extract up to 70 million litres of water a

A third of the water, siphoned from the 50 boreholes to be developed during the next six years, will be used for drinking. However, some will be so salty that it is too costly to treat. Mr Section said they planned to discuss with landowners and councils ideas for reusing this water, including ornamental ponds and fountains, car washes and horticulture. Surplus water will be dispatched down the sewer system into rivers.

Thames Water has put up £8 million of the £10 million, but believes that other organisations and companies that

stand to benefit should chip in.

The threat of the rising water level is already adding to construction costs. The new British Library has a 35m deep basement with reinforced walls to counter flood-

Thames Water, which has submitted the proposal to Nick Raynsford, the Minister for London, estimates that the annual running costs will be about £2 million.

The scheme has already started. Boreholes at Streatham and Merton in southwest London have been opened and work is under way at Islington. Battersea and Brixton. Other sites have been identified and the company is studying other, undisclosed sites, where it is likely to apply for planning permission to complete the full network.

Bill Alexander, chief executive of Thames Water and chairman of the project's steering group, Gardit, said yesterday: "We have worked hard to develop this solution and are keen to see it implemented as soon as possible. There is no time to waste."

A spokesman for Birming-

ham City Council, where pumping has begun in some low lying-basements and cellars, said yesterday that they were carrying out studies with Severn Trent Water to see how easy it might be to siphon off the rising water table.



Parts of Malton were still flooded yesterday. The repair bill is likely to run into millions

A close call for Marina the water baby

By PAUL WILKINSON

JANE HARTLEY'S baby will have a personal reason to recall the great floods of 1999. Her name, Marina, marks the day when the fast-rising waters almost cut her parents off from hospital as she was about to be horn.

about to be born.

Marina's mother and her partner, Geoff Hutchinson, 44, had left their countryside home near Kirkbymoorside, on the edge of the North York Moors, en route for York District Hospital 25 miles away, early on Monday morning. But they soon realised the 40-minute journey was not going to be the usual simple run.

Mr Hutchinson, a stonema-

Mr Hutchinson, a stonemason, said: "I knew the way round the back roads, so I thought we'd get through." But when they reached the town of Pickering, ten miles away, he realised the way was impassable.

By that time 33-year-old Miss Hartley's contractions were only five minutes apart. "She was lying on the back-seat uttering words of Anglo-Saxon origin," he said.

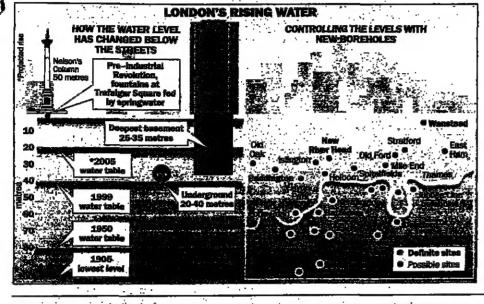
"Five minutes from Malton. Jane's contractions were only four minutes apart so we decided there was no way we were going to York." He diverted to the community hospital in Malton. "We arrived just after 7am and at 8.15am our baby daughter arrived."

Mother and Marina who

Mother and Marina, who weighed in at 7lb 5oz, are both doing fine back at home in the village of Appleton-le-Moor.

The total number of homes flooded by the waters rose yesterday to more than 200. The cost of repairs to homes and businesses will run into tens of millions of pounds.

Malcolm Tarling, of the Association of British Insurers, said similar flooding which hit the East and South Midlands last April cost insurers £100 million. "The value of the damage in Ryedale could be between tens and hundreds of millions of pounds."





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Ulster motorists queue to beat petrol tax rise

QUEUES formed at garages on the southern side of the Irish border yesterday as drivers travelled up to 40 miles to avoid the Budget increases on petrol and cigarettes. Customs officials and petrol

retailers called the 11.5 per cent increase a smugglers' charter. A record differential of 29p per litre for diesel and 21p for unleaded petrol has been created. giving drivers the chance to save \$250 on a lorry and £9 on

filling up an ordinary car. Even before the Budget, so much fuel was being smuggled north that the Exchequer was losing at least \$100 million a year in duty. Half the Province's stations were buyng smuggled fuel, some of which was being ferried to England and Scotland.

Ray Holloway, the director of the Petrol Retailers' Association, said the problem was so severe that at least two bigname oil companies were considering pulling out of North-ern Ireland.

He was "astounded" by Mr Brown's announcement, and accused the Treasury of ignoring strenuous representations from the industry. "All he did yesterday in the case of Northern treland's smugglers was give them another margin of op a litre. This will drive legal traders to buy illegal fuel sim-

Cross-border drivers fill up at Irish garages, report Martin Fletcher and

business or take the risk of buying cheap illegal fuel, what would you do?"

Audrey Magee

Customs and Excise has been fighting a losing battle to patrol the 300 miles of Britain's only land border. One senior source said: "We are already facing a severe problem and this is going to make it

In 1998, Customs officers seized 420,000 litres of smuggled fuel, and obtained evidence of another 24 million litres that was not seized. But of-ficials said that was only a tiny fraction of what got through. and the Northern Ireland Select Committee of the House of Commons has announced a

full investigation. The IRA is suspected of involvement in the smuggling operation. Some of the fuel is badly adulterated by chemi-

John Allen, a petrol station owner in Londonderry, said he knew of 11 stations within a five-mile radius that had gone out of business in the last 18 months. His sales had halved when Mr Brown raised fuel duties by 11.5 per cent in his 1998 Budget, and now the Chancellor had done the same again. He was surviving only on the profits from his shop. "It's very bad news," he said. Padraic Waters, who owns

arages on both sides of the border, said that his station at Castleblayney, Co Monaghan, was cashing in, "Already we have people driving 30 to 40 miles from the north. There is a queue of about 100 yards of trucks outside the station." John Kirk, who runs a pet-

rol station four miles from the border with Newry, said his business increased yesterday by up to 15 per cent, all of it from Ulster. He said: "The northern people are very shrewd. They know where there is value."

Noel Murphy is considering closing some of his family's five garages in the north. The company is already losing 10.000 gallons of fuel sales each month to the Republic. "What use is a shop at a petrol



Bubble bursts for sparkling cider drinkers

By SIMON DE BRUXELLES, WEST OF ENGLAND CORRESPONDENT

popped the cork on a bottle of his farmhouse cider yesterday and drank a farewell toast to the West Country's answer to

The Somerset farmer is one of a handful of producers still making bottle-fermented ci-der in the traditional way. But the death sentence of the cot-tage industry he helped to re-vive was hidden in the smallprint of the Budget.

Overnight a drink that

fuelled generations of farm-workers but was still fit to grace the smartest of dinner parties has been killed off. The duty on a bottle of Mr Temperley's dry sparkling cider has been increased from 45p a litre to £1.61. The in-crease applies to sparkling ciders and perries with wiredon corks and alcohol content

above 7.5 per cent. Every bottle Mr Temperley produces now attracts five times the duty of the carbonatedeider mass-produced by companies such as Bulmer

and Matthew Clarke.

The traditional drink is the indirect casualty of a war between the Italian sparkling wine industry and the manufacture of a december in the individual of the manufacture of a december in the individual of the individual of the indirection. facturers of a cheap imitation made in Liverpool. "Frascati and "Lambini" may look Italian with their copycat labels and pictures of Venice but they are made from concen-trated imported pear juice on

TEMPERLEY Because they do not use grapes the drinks have until now been taxed at the far lower rate applied to cider. After complaints by manufacturers of drinks such as Asti Spumante, the Government decided to put the squeeze on the copycat industry which is be-lieved to have sold £20 million

worth of its products last year.
The closure of this loophole has trapped Mr Temperley and the handful of other cider makers still using traditional methods. With its minutener. methods. With its wired-on mushroom cork and dark green bonde. Burrow Hill is sold in Fortnum & Mason and raved about by drinks writers.

Inside the farm's centuriesold cider house, wooden apple presses stand alongside vast oak vats each holding up to 10,000 gallons of fermenting juice. Most of the cider he produces will be sold in plastic gallon containers to callers at

the small farm shop.
It is production of the far smaller quantities of bottle-fer-mented cider, made from single varieties of apples such as Kingston Black and Stoke Red, that will now end. It costs E4.80 a bottle at the farm: £6.75 at Fortnum and

Although the increased tax will affect fewer than 10.000 bottles or 10 per cent of his total production, he said: "This is our flagship product. You seemed seeme is at the table of could serve it at the table of





supper at a local store and notify us within 7 days of refuse, we gustantee to refund the difference. product inst to rue involved and in strek the de off (ch mod order interest characters) if ex-Esplay special order

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Part of DSG Retail Ltd 7

Parental leave 'must be paid'

By Alexandra Frean, social affairs correspondent

PLANS to give all employees three months' paid parental leave when they have a baby or adopt a child will be meaningless unless the time off is paid, unions said yesterday.

One in three workers who are parents believe they will not be able to afford to take advantage of parental leave if it means giving up pay for 12 weeks, a study by the Trades Union Congress shows. A further 12.5 per cent say they would not take parental leave, even though they could afford to, because they fear their boss

would not like it. say they intend to take up their full entitlement. Professional women are the most likely to use it and unskilled men the

least likely.
John Monks, General Secretary of the TUC, said he hoped that the findings would help to stimulate a national debate about how the regulations for parental leave should be

framed. "Good employers already recognise that making parental leave paid is a key element in promoting family-friendly employment and en-couraging staff loyalty," he said. Parental leave is set to be introduced in December when Britain adopts the social chapter. It will guarantee parents three months off work and will be available to both mothers and fathers in addition to ma-

ternity and paternity leave.

1 Battle lines are all ady being drawn up between the TUC's Paid Parental Leave. Campaign, which has the sup-port of childcare organisations, and the Confederation of British Industry, which believes that paid parental leave would put an "unsustainable cost on business".

Ministers are in a difficult position. There is now widespread acknowledgement that the long hours culture is putting great pressure on fami-

Rush to beat duty deadline

SOLICITORS were rushing yesterday to beat a deadline for increased stamp duty on the sale of high-priced properties (Robin Young writes).

The new rates of duty. 25 per cent on sales of more than £250,000 and 3.5 per cent on deals over £500,000, come into force on March 16. Where solicitors are able to exchange contracts and complete the transfer by that date the old rates will apply. Those who exchanged on or before Budget day will ter how long it takes to complete. Giles Peruberton of the Knightsbridge solicitors, Pemberton's, said: "We certainly have clients for whom we are rushing to complete; 3.5 per cent on a sum over £500,000 is an appreciable sum to anybody."



paying more tax when earn-

ings rise more than the rate of

inflation. The figures also rise

automatically if GDP falls. However, Labour regularly

attacked Conservatives over

the tax burden, which rose

through the Major Govern-

ment. Yesterday the Prime Minister pointed out that the

Tories had projected a higher

tax burden of 37.8 per cent at

the end of this Parliament in

Mr Hague said that using

Treasury figures, the total tax

increase in the coming year as

a result of the three Budgets was £7.1 billion and in the fol-

lowing year would be £10.5 bil-

lion. He said: "With the pick-

pocket Chancellor and stealth

iaxes, taxes have gone up, are

going up and are going to car-ry on going up." Mr Blair dis-missed the claim. "The tax bur-

den is falling, not rising . . . tax-

es are going to be lower at the end of this Parliament than

planned by the Tory party."

their last Budget.

Blair lying

over tax

burden,

say Tories

By PHILIP WERSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

TONY BLAIR was accused of

lying last night after he re-fused to accept repeated claims by William Hague that

taxes would go up by £7 bil-

lion in the current year as a re-

sult of Labour's three Budgets.

The charge was made by Francis Maude, the Shadow

Chancellor, after a day of in-

creasingly bitter argument

over the impact of Gordon Brown's tax-cutting package on Tuesday. The Conserva-tives have gone on the offen-

sive because of Mr Blair's ad-

mission last week that the "tax

burden" was likely to rise in

the present Parliament - as

figures in the Treasury Red

Book, its annual economic fore-

cast and analysis, have shown

In the Treasury publication

on Tuesday, the tax burden fig-ure for the end of the Parlia-

ment was put at 37.1 per cent

of Gross Domestic Product

compared with 36.6 per cent at

the start of the Parliament.

Economists say it is a crude

for two years.

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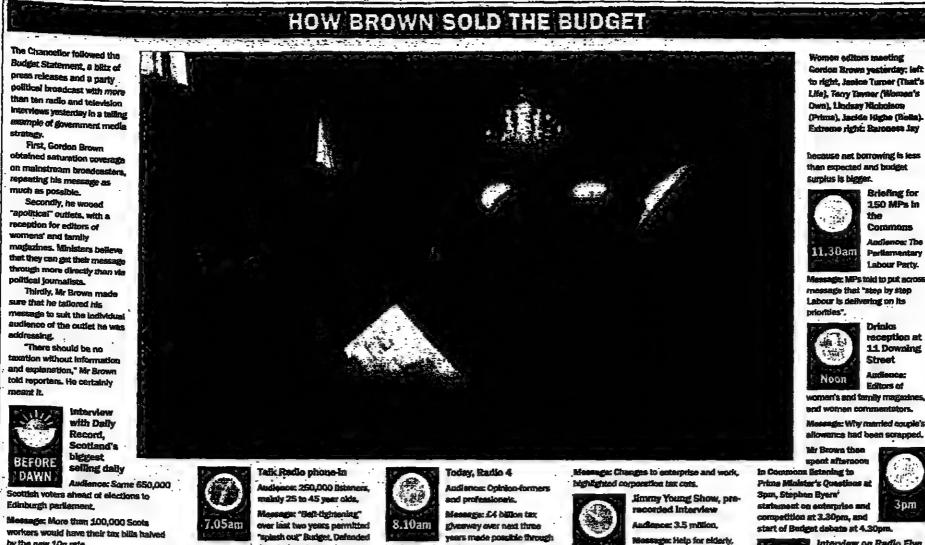


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THE TIMES THURSDAY MARCH II 1999



splash out Budget De bes in fuel duty. GMTV interview with

ments can influence behaviour, pri-

marily through the tax system but

also via regulations. Mr Brown has changed business, company,

petrol and landfill taxes to penalise

responded to The Sun's call

for cuts in Income tax

he mystery over the meaning of new Labour/Third.
Way has been solved. Gordon Brown's Budget speech provided the fullest definition of those clu-

sive terms, even if the Chancellor

himself is too fastidious to allow

the words Third Way to pass his

lips. Within a framework of fiscal

and monetary conservatism. Mr

Brown is offering a new version of

government activism or social engi-

necring. This is more significant

than yesterday's tiresome exchang-

es at Prime Minister's Questions

over the impact of tax changes.

falls in cost of servicing public debt and social

new incentives and reliefs to

achieve what they see as desirable

Many of the incentives for small

businesses, entrepreneurship and

economic or social objectives.

Audiance: 150-strong audience, 3,000 bushes people via talevision link,

Conservative Chancellor. There are good reasons to be sceptical about whether such schemes boost the creation of firms or innovation. as opposed to the inventiveness of tax accountants. Mr Brown has

also overhauled the tax, national insurance and social benefit systems to encourage people to take jobs and to show that work pays. These are admirable aims and these changes may have some ef-fect at the margin. But there are dangers of exaggerating the im-pact of purely financial incentives on such decisions. Underlying atti-

150 MPs In

Interview on Radio Five

rises and emphasised that

Mespage; Mr Brown

Both main parties nowadays compete to be pro-family and marriage. This can produce absurdities like turning the married cou-

pro-marriage you are. The fallacy of that was exposed by Mr Brown on Tuesday. But having sensibly abolished this allowance — as well as finally burying mortgage tax re-lief — Mr Brown felt obliged to invent a children's tax credit. This is supposed to focus support on children, though in classic Brown fash-lon it is being means tested. The overall pattern is of a compli-

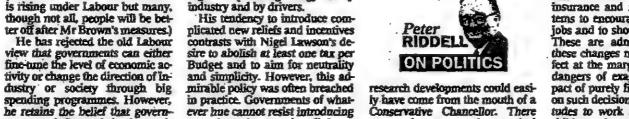
cated system of incentives and penalties to produce what the Govern-ment views as desirable behaviour hard working, saving (though

--- must be ditven ashore . . .

Anatole Kaletsky, page 22 Letters, page 23 measure because tax burden figures are affected by people Chancellor pulls the strings to make new Labour dance ple's allowance into a totem of how the Government has not been able to resist the soft target of savers), non-smoking, married couples

with children, who form their own high-technology firms, own energy efficient cars (or, better still, trav-el by public transport) and give to charities. The information and giving ages all rolled into one. At the centre of this intricate pattern is Mr Brown blmself, generat-

less brain of the Chancellor.





tudes to work and facilities like childcare also matter.

especially fivefold increase of

Mostage: Fiscal situation is

Treasury briefing

business editors.

Audience: Political and

ing policy initiatives and controlling the levers of domestic policy throughout Whitehall. New Labour is now identical with the rest-

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British boxing fans take flight for big fight

THE biggest contingent of British boxing fans to travel abroad will start arriving in

abroad will start arriving in New York today to back Lennox Lewis as he battles to become the undisputed heavy-weight champion of the world. At least 8,000 fans, enough to fill 19 jumbo jets, will be making the trek to America hoping to see Lewis, the WBC champion, beat Evander Holyfield, the WBA and IBF title field, the WBA and IBF title holder. More than 1,000 more fans are expected to turn up without tickets hoping to buy from touts at heavily inflated

Tickets for the event at Madison Square Garden, which holds just under 20,000 peo-ple, are selling for up to six times their face value of about £60 to more than £900. The cheaper seats sold out within half an hour of going on sale.

A spokesman for boxing's most famous venue, said: "We expect upwards of 8,000 British fans to be in The Garden on the night, making the atmosphere electric."

A spokesman for US Airtours, which has arranged flights and tickets for 300 people, said there was unprecedented demand for a boxing match abroad involving a Briton. He said: "Most of the airlines have been sold out for days. Many fans have said they are going without rickets, hoping to buy once out there." They are travelling in the

hope of seeing the first Briton to become the undisputed heav-yweight champion of the world since 1897, when Bob Fitz simmons won the title. Since then 12 Britons have tried. The last was Frank Bruno in 1989: he was beaten by Mike Tyson. Adam Cornwell, 25, who.

works for an IT recruitment firm in London, is going to see the fight with four friends, each spending £1,000 on



Lewis: hoping for lucky

flights, tickets and accommodation. He said: "It is a lot of time event. It is unlikely that I will get another chance to see a British heavyweight challenge for the title at Madison Square Garden and the whole week-end will be brilliant."

Peter Stockion, 37, a commercial manager of a cable manufacturing company in Liverpool, is travelling with seven friends. He is missing the christening of his sister's baby to go to the fight, his first

He is using savings for spending money while he is out there and confesses that he has lied to his wife about the cost of the fight ficket. He said: She thinks it cost about £30. If she knew how much it really cost I wouldn't have to go all the way to New York for the big fight."

He had been expecting to stay in a small hotel or a youth hostel, but the travel company he booked with made a mistake and as a result it is paying for all of the group to stay in the Marriott Hotel in Times

Lynne Truss,



The Mayan king Hanab Pakal: mystery over his age at death may now be resolved

New bone test adds years to our ancestors

By Nigel Hawkes, science editor

LIFE in olden times may have been nasty and brutish, but it was not necessarily short, a group of archaeologists says. Mark Pollard, of Bradford University. with Robert Aykroyd, of the University of Leeds, and two colleagues from Bradford, has re-examined the methods used by archaeologists to calculate age at death from skeletal and dental remains. These methods, they told New Scientist, systematically underestimate how long people lived. "This explains a lot of things," he says, "For example, skeletons suggest that life expectancy in Ancient Rome was less than

WERNER FORMAN ARCHIV

50, while documentary evidence shows that lots of Ro-mans fived to be 70 or more." Other studies have suggested that Stone Age people on Orkney had an average age at death of only 25, with few sur-viving beyond 50, while Native Americans living in what

is now Ohio 1,000 years ago had a life expectancy at birth of only 20, with a mere 10 to 15 per cent surviving beyond 40. Norman Hammond, The Times's archaeology correspondent, cites the example of the 7th-century Mayan king Hanab Pakal. From his

bones, anthropologists in the 1950s concluded that he died in his forties, while the inscription on his tomb, translated later, says that he lived to be 80. "What the research has

scription can be reconciled with the bones," he says. Archaeologists use evidence

of wear and tear to estimate the age at death of human skeletons. From skeletons of known age, plots are pro-duced linking age to specific levels of deterioration.

The results, however, have been increasingly questioned. When the vaults of Spital-fields Church in East London were excavated a few years ago, known ages of skeletons were compared with esti-mates worked out "blind" using the usual methods. The

The reason, says the team. is that the calculations contain a systematic bias. Linear regression, as the method used called, involves taking bones of known ages and plotting a graph of how some characteristics, such as joint wear. change with time.

A line drawn through the points is used to calculate the age of other bones. But the team shows that the method is very rough. By using a differeut type of analysis, called a Bayesian calibration, the errors can be more than halved.

Professor Pollard said that the findings might imply that our ancestors had a more sup-portive social structure and more effective medicine than is usually thought, although he added that it may perhaps

Mother fights to keep son alive Shrimps blinded by science

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

A MOTHER who refused to give doctors permission to let her son die faces a second battle for his life today. Health officials who are reluctant to fund vital treatment are meet-

ing to reassess the case. Teresa Dygas said that Gregory, 17, who slipped into a coma during an asihma at-tack last April and suffered two cardiac arrests, has made remarkable progress since receiving treatment in the past four mouths at a unit dealing with traumatic brain injury.

He is now semi-conscious after hospital doctors initially said that he was brain dead. They told his mother that they would not attempt further resuscitation or treatment and tried to persuade her to "let him go" because it was "cruel to keep him alive".

Mrs Dygas, 48, fought off the suggestion as Gregory was moved from hospital to hospital. Lincolnshire Health Authority wanted to put him in a nursing home. But Mrs Dyeas, who described such a

move as a death sentence, persuaded officials to send him for assessment to the Holly Lodge unit near Sheffield. Now she is afraid that the

health authority will decide at a multidisciplinary panel today to stop paying for the £1,400-a-week treatment and to send him to a nursing home for palliative care only, where she believes that he would deleriorate and die,

Mrs Dygas, from Louth, who has two other children, Gregory's twin sister Isabel

and Roger, 9, said: "We are living on our nerves, wondering when they will stop funding

The case will help to focus the debate by the ethics committee of the British Medical Association, which plans to publish guidelines in July on the issue of withholding care from patients. The Tory MP Sir Teddy Taylor has tabled an early day motion calling on the Government to make illegal what he describes as "involuntary cuthanasia".

By Our Science Editor

SHRIMPS living at the bottom of the Atlantic are having their eyes destroyed by the bright lights of submersibles as scientists explore the last untouched wilderness on Earth, according to British biolo-

Peter Herring, of Southampton Oceanography Centre, and two colleagues from Leicester University, Edward Gaten and Peter Shelton, collected shrimps from two sites along the Mid-Atlantic Ridge.

At these sites, where the plates making up the Atlantic floor are separating, material from sub-sea volcanoes is constantly appearing through vents in the seabed. The result is a rich habitat for creatures

that are adapted to it. The shrimps' eyes are adapted to the dim light.

Some of the shrimps collected have eyes that are completely white, instead of the normal pink, and appear to have suffered serious damage to the retina. The team suggests in *Nature* that previous visits to the site by the submersibles *Nautile* and *Alvin*, which used floodlights, may have caused the damage.

When shrimps of the same species are caught by trawiers well above the level of the vents, they show no such damage. The team cautions that any observations made about the behaviour of shrimps at the vents should take into account the fact that they have probably been blinded. "There is at present no means of work-

ing at the vents without causing this damage, so every vent population visited will already have been exposed to it," they

☐ Scientists in the United States have identified a gene that enables mice to eat a high-fat diet without putting on weight, a report in Nature says. The mice, which have a defective version of the gene, remain a healthy weight whether they eat a high-fat or a low-fat diet with the same amount of calories.

The team, from Millennium Pharmaceuticals in Cambridge, Massachusetts. expect to find the same gene operates in humans. If so, it might provide the route to a new type of anti-obesity drug that would affect the operation of the gene.

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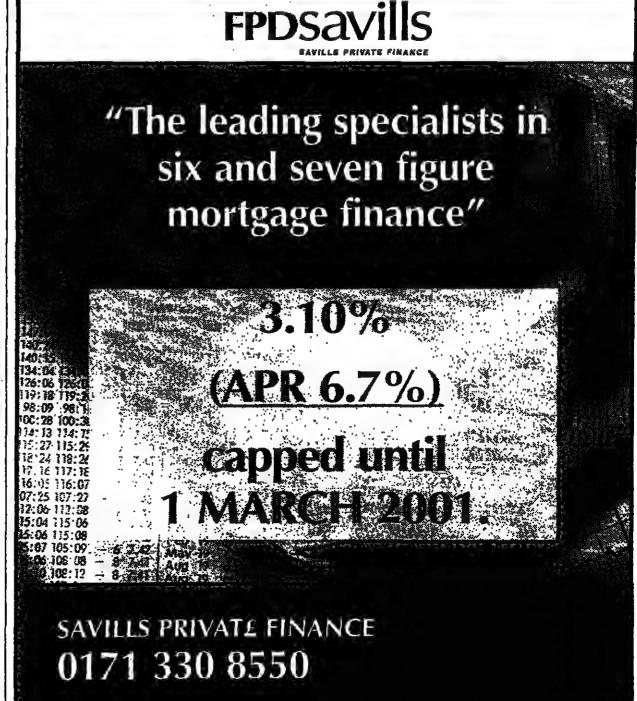
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or older, unless otherwise stated. All loans subject to status. APR quoted is typical and variable. 7% of the loan amount will be charged if you redeem the

notion charge (£110). The acceptance fee and telegraphic transfer fee have been added to the advance in this example. Net paymen

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Harare arrests three in **US** arms mystery

FROM JAN RAATH IN HARARE

ZIMBABWEAN authorities are holding three Americans who allegedly tried to smuggle weapons on to a flight from Harare to Zurich after visiting the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The state-controlled Herald reported yesterday that a team of investigators had flown to the Congo to investigate the men's activities there. Security officials were alerted when one of them tried to pass through an airport metal detector on Sunday night carrying a handgun. Their luggage, containing stripped ri-fles, telescopic sights and ammunition, had already passed through security checks

In the airport car park police discovered a large four-wheel-drive vehicle, said to belong to the three and containing a small arsenal concealed behind secret panels and inside fridges and washing machines. It included automatic rifles, sniper rules, silencers, infra-red sights, a light machinegun, pistols, shotguns. ammunition, mobile radio equipment, binoculars and as many as 70 knives.

Four days after their arrest, there has been no explanation by authorities. The only identification offered by police is that they are men in their thirties who are directors of an Indianapolis business with the name of the John Dixon Window Cleaning Company.
Police have failed to ob-

serve the law that obliges them to produce any suspect in court 48 hours after they are arrested. "They are in uniawful custody now," said a senior lawyer. "There is no way that period can be legally extended."

The American Embassy's only response was to deny that the three were linked in any way to the US Government. Diplomatic sources said that the men had invoked American privacy legislation that prevents their being pub-licly identified by US officials. The sources said that 2hmbabwean authorities were being "very co-operative".

Congo expels diplomat and seizes Britons

A BRITISH diplomat was yes-terday accused of spying and expelled from the Democratic Republic of Congo as Foreign Office officials continued to negotiate for the release of four Britons and an American held since Sunday in Kinshasa. also accused of espionage,

Gregor Lusty, Third Secretary at the British Embassy in the former Zaire, was escorting a team of British soldiers and diplomats on a "routine" tour of the country's capital, as part of contingency planning for the evacuation of about 200 British citizens living there.

They were arrested near the international airport by soldiers manning roadblocks. According to the Congolese authorities, they were found carrying maps with the city's airports and other strategic instal-lations highlighted. They have been held under "hotel arrest" while British colleagues tried to persuade Congolese officials that they were not spying.

Mr Lusty was not ordered to remain in his hotel under guard along with his colleagues because he had diplomatic immunity. But yesterday he was ordered out of the country by Gaetan Kakudji, the Interior Minister.

"A diplomat who was the guide in all of this, we have pronounced him persona non grata." he said. "He must leave the country today. I delivered the message to the British Ambassador. This is a situation which they have pro-

Envoy accused of spying after embassy team is arrested, Sam Kiley reports

voked. In any country this would be espionage."

A British consular official, two Ministry of Defence officials, one of the British Ambassador's bodyguards, a mem-ber of the Royal Military Police close protection squad, and an American on attachment to the Foreign Office, were still being held in a Kinshasa hotel

Late on Tuesday night Tony Lloyd, the Foreign Office Minister responsible for Africa, called Laurent Kabila, President of the Congo, to ask for the release of the five men. "We totally reject allegations that they were spying or were involved in any spying activi-ties," he said. "What they were doing was reviewing standard plans for consular and embassy evacuation in the event of an emergency in Kinshasa."

A Foreign Office spokesman said yesterday that "there are some hopes that they will be released soon". The spokesman said the treatment of the MoD and Foreign Office officials was "unhelpful, unwarranted

in Kinshasa had flown to the capital on diplomatic visas. Foreign Office sources said they were unlikely to be cov-ered by diplomatic immunity. The fifth member of the group, the ambassador's bodyguard. was also on a diplomatic visa but is based in Kinshasa. The two MoD men were

thought to be officers from Britain's Rapid Reaction Force which would be responsible for evacuating British nationals from the Democratic Republic of Congo if they were considered to be in danger. De-lence sources dismissed sug-gestions that they were mem-bers of the special forces. Douglas Scrafton, the Brit-ich Americal or une allowed

ish Ambassador, was allowed to visit the men and he told the Foreign Office they were in good health and had been well

Given the levels of tension in Kinshasa, which came close to falling to rebels last year in a war that has drawn in eight other countries amid reports of white mercenaries working on both sides, the British soldiers and others were lucky they were not beaten, or worse. Westerners visiting Kinshasa are routinely thrashed and threatened with mock executions and have their wallets emptied by local security force

Britain and America are suspected by Congolese officials of supporting the country's Tutsi-led rebels.



Arafat returns to quell Gaza violence

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

YASSIR ARAFAT, the Palestiman leader, yesterday cut short a trip to Jordan and flew back to Gaza to handle security after rioting erupted in which his security forces fired on demonstrators, killing two teenagers and wounding six others.

According to witnesses in the town of Rafah, close to the Egyptian border, one Palestinian policeman was also injured in exchanges of fire protesters. many of them supporters of the militant

Islamic group, Hamas.

The violence, the worst seen between Palestinians in the area for months, resulted from public fury over news that a Palestinian military court had sentenced a security agent and former Hamas activist to death by firing squad for the killing of Refat Jouda, an officer belonging to a rival agency.

Two other Hamas sympathisers were sentenced by the court, one to 15 years and the other to life imprisonment in disputed verdict that fuelled allegations that Mr Arafat was presiding over justice more arbitrary and brutal than that previously administered by the Israelis, who ruled the area until 1994.

As the condemned man, Raed al-Attar, 25, was led away by police after sentencing, he shouted: "There is no justice in Palestine. This court decision has been fabricated." It was not clear when the sentence would be car-

The case against him underscored the difficulties of controlling rival security branches without clear mandates and illustrated the fric-

tion between clan justice and the rule of Mr Arafat's embryonic Palestinian Authority. After the verdict shops in

Rafah closed in solidarity with the three men and demonstrators hurled rocks and bottles at the Jouda family

Ala al-Hams, 18, who was killed by police in the ensuing violence, was swiftly bur-ied in the Muslim fashion. Family members at the emotional funeral chanted: "Keep your dogs away from us. Arafat" - a reference to the Palestinian police, who then



from "French Cell"

Cook embarrassed on eve of Anglo-French tour once claimed to have killed a British France has been proven beyond

BY SAM KILEY AFRICA CORRESPONDENT

THE Kinshasa arrests are an embarrassing blow to Anglo-French plans to forge a joint policy on Africa. They will confirm in the minds of many French officials that Britain is playing dirty on the dark continent.

Whatever the intentions of Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, and Hubert Védrine, his French counterpart
— who were due to meet for dinner in Ghana yesterday at the start of an historic joint tour of West Africa -British officials will be blushing in

the face of private taunts from the French that they were right all along. Since Uganda and Rwanda backed English-speaking Tutsis to topple Mobutu Sese Seko in the then Zaire two years ago, French official have insisted that they did so with the help of British and American spy agencies.

"It is all the work of the Defence Intelligence Agency [the Pentagon's es-pionage network] and MI6. The Brits come up with the ideas and the Amer-icans with the funding," an African-based French official insisted as the rebels drove Mobum from his marany question to have supplied arms to Hutu extremists before, during and after the genocide in Rwanda in 1994 - further entrenching the perception that, far from having a joint policy in Africa, London and Paris were bitterly at odds.

M Védrine has gone to some lengths to wrest control of Africa's policy from an exclusive "French Cell" based in the Elysée Palace. which ruthlessly pursued French in-terests in Africa during the Mitterrand presidency.

M Chirac has been happy to see

the Quai d'Orsay sideline the French cell, partly as a result of the exposure of the extent of French support for the Hutus during the genocide.

But many French officials still resent deeply what they saw as Anglophone interference in the Congo and are quick to point out that America has deployed Green Berets to train Tutsis in Rwanda while, until recently. Britain had a military training

team in Uganda.
Others go further in their suspi-cions. A member of the lith "Shock". regiment — the military wing of the ... The two ministers will meet Gha-Prench spy agency, the DGSE — na's President Rawlings today.

SAS soldier serving with the Tursis in Rwanda in 1991. "I shot him dead in the north of the country. The SAS were training the Tutsis, definitely, that's why they're so good in the jungle," he insisted.

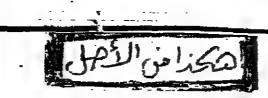
The French and British Foreign Ministers are anxious to put such rivalries behind them and make good on their leader's commitments at the Franco-British summit in December to share information and even embassies in Africa:

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Veteran car

invests millions to get Americans into saddle, says Giles Whittell

AFTER decades as a cheerleader for America's gas-guzzling car culture. Lee lacocca, the former Chrysler chairman, has abandoned his retirement and sunk several million of his own dollars into a scheme to sell 1,000 electric bicycles a week to pensioners, police officers and anyone else with a dread of pedalling uphill.

At \$995 (£610) for the basic

model, the E-bike is not cheap, but neither is it purely for fun. And it should turn heads. It can outpace joggers and most urban traffic, purr along on cruise control and recharge in a few hours at any electric socket. But when The Times tested one, it proved too quiet to be noticed by the citizens of west Los Angeles, or simply too modest.

A 24-volt battery under the crossbar gives this hybrid brisk acceleration and a range of 20 miles at 15mph if not pedalled at all. With a determined athlete in the saddle, its range is limitless and mountain-bike gears are designed to make light work of pedalling a 651b

machine, roughly twice the weight of a typical bicycle.
Mr Iacocca has said modestly: "This isn't just a bicycle: it's a revolution."

But with the sedate lines of a women's shopper, it may struggle to ignite a craze in the land of stretch limousines. Electric transport so far has

been a dud in the United States. Thomas Edison, invenfor of the lightbulb, assured Henry Ford nearly a century ago that the days of the intern-al combustion engine were numbered. Since then, despite choking smog and traffic jams, electric trolley buses have been removed from Los Angeles streets and battery problems have made electric cars a plaything of hobbyists

Two years ago General Motors launched its EV-1, America's first battery-powproduction car. It has



Lee Iacocca pedals his "revolutionary" electric cycle

them, echoing Sir Clive Sinclair's heroic failure with the C-5, a low-slung pod that positioned its rider on the level of other vehicles' exhaust pipes.

"In Asia and Europe the bicycle is part of the culture," Bill Moore, editor of EV World magazine, said. "Over here it's an exercise phenomenon. It's going to take a cultural shift to get people to start using it instead of their beloved four-wheel-drives to go to the barber's shop." Mr Iacocca, 73, has led cult-

ural shifts before and is the original celebrity industrialist. When Bill Gates was nine, Mr Jacocca appeared on the cover of Newsweek next to the first Ford Mustang, a throme and steel paean to American manhood that was an instant hit. He went on to become chief ex-ecutive of Ford, the rescuer (twice), of Chrysler and the author of an autobiography that sold nine million copies.

His Midas touch has not been infallible. He joined the reclusive billionaire Kirk Kirkorian in a documed atsince leased barely 400 of tempt to buy Chrysler after re-

tiring from it in 1992, and lent his name in 1995 to a low-fat butter substitute that failed to sell. With the E-bike, he may be on safer ground. It is being sold only through car dealerships, where his name recalls a golden age, and only in four warm states: California, Arizona, Florida and Hawaii. It is also being aimed at military bases, universities and retire ment communities. California and Florida alone have 14,000

Hopes are high in the Los Angeles offices of Mr lacocca's grandly named company. EV Global Motors. "We are going to electrify the Bahamas," said Irene DiVito, vice-president of brandishing an order for 50 Ebikes from the Bahamian police force. They may yet change the mainland, too. Pollution, glo-

bal warming and time wasted in traffic jams have brought redoubled government efforts to wean Americans off petrol and out of cars. With tough new air-quality, regulations on his side, Mr Iacocca aims to profit from a solution to a problem that he admits he helped to create. "I think I have one vision left in me before I die," he told Time magazine recently. "And it's electric."

There are other electric

bikes on the market, but none have Mr Iacocca's name recognition and all live in the shad ow of ghosts that came and went. Several small-town Californian police forces use "Electricruisers" for their street patrols, sold for less than \$1,000 by ZAP Power Systems of San Francisco. Charger Bicycles and the Electric Transporta-tion Company have more ex-pensive models: Canada's Malcolm Bricklin is not so lucky. His \$2,000 EV Warrior electric bicycle venture, offering "the commuter vehicle of the future", went bankrupt two years ago.



Chrysler's future chairman with his tricycle as a boy

North Korean farce

ends in asylum bid

FROM DAVID WATTS IN KUALA LUMPUR

be taken to Pyongyang. The couple had cuts and bruises as

Mr Hong, the Science and

Technology Attaché, went missing in the middle of last

month. The North Koreans

accused him of embezzling

money that was to be used to buy rice from Thailand.

Last night Surin Pitsuwan. the Thai Foreign Minister, confirmed that Mr Hong had

requested asylum and said

that Thailand would protect

him. Thailand has no extradi-

tion treaty with North Korea.

sador to Thailand has not returned to Bangkok since the

rom

scandal broke.

The North Korean Ambas-

a result of the accident.

A NORTH KOREAN diplo-mat sought isylum in Thai-

land last night after a van-

load of his fellow envoys tried

to kidnap himand return him

Hong Sun Gyong and his wife were flows to the Thai

capital after a omedy of er-rors in which beal police at

one point lost the couple, hav-

ing apparently escued them

from a group of North Kore

an diplomats who were stand-

ing near an overturned van.
It is believed that the van

crashed 280 miles sortheast of

Bangkok as the diplomats

were trying to snuggle the couple out of Thailand to

Laos, from where they were to

Quality health insurance

to Pyongyang.

Three die in Spice Isles riots

Jakarta: At least three people were killed and 50 hurt when Indonesian troops opened fire to break up mobs of Christ-ians and Muslims clashing in Ambon, in the Spice Islands (Patricia Nunan writes).

Tens of mousands of Muslims and Christians lought with perrol bombs, machetes, knives and at least one bow and arrow. Several houses were set on fire.

More than 200 people have been killed in Ambon since late January, when an argument between a Muslim and a Christian over a bus fare led to rioting. Many deaths have been caused by Indonesian security forces they are authorised to shoot rioters on sight.

The Covernment has sent more than 3,000 troops into Ambon to maintain stability. In the Indonesian capital. Jakarta, more than 1,000 stu-

dents took to the streets calling for a holy war to avenge the deaths of Ambonese Muslims. "This is not about war," Irwan Senarnya said. "We just want to show the world that we Muslim people always suf-

fer from Christians." Most of Indonesia's 200 million people are Muslim, but the Spice Islands are predominantly Christian

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Terrified villagers surrender after Serb onslaught



Anthony Loyd reports from the deserted village of Ivaja in Kosovo, razed to the ground by troops bent on revenge

THERE were only two men visible among the smouldering ruins of lvaja yesterday. They were all that remained of the 500-strong ethnic Albanian population of the village, perched in the mountains 31 miles south of Pristina, after Serb tanks and mortars pulverised it a day earlier, before infantry moved in and set light

to whatever remained. One of the two, Ramadan Muljoqi. 84, sat dazed among the smoking devastation. His face bruised and puffed by repeated beating, he had fled his home when the Serb attack began. Separated from his

without enough strength to escape across the mountains alone, he returned to Ivaja late on Tuesday afternoon when the shelling had stopped.

"The Serb soldiers beat me with their rifles," he said, hold-ing out bloody and swollen fungers as behind him wildeved dogs devoured a horse, one of many animals slaughtered in the rank-churned streets. They asked me who I knew from the KLA (Kosovo Liberation Armyl. I said no one. What of my son? they asked. I said he wasn't in the KLA. So they beat me again." The other man was anony-

possibly KLA, he lay sprawled at the edge of the village, shot twice in the chest, palms open and fingers outstretched, a watch still ticking on his wrist. Two bullet casings lay by the pool of blood at his feet as well as a fresh cigarette end. So we know little of his death other

> Mr Muljoqi did not know the corpse's identity either. But he said that he had seen him being beaten, then shot.

than that he was a Serb soldier

Ivaja was one of five Albanian villages hit by a co-ordinated Serb attack early this week that has displaced more than 4,000 refugees. Occupying the

nearly a mile above sealevel, and suffering the worst damage, it was once headquarters of a small KLA unit.

Ten days ago a Serb police captain was killed in an ambush outside Gjare, the next village down. Gjare was than this token attack to quell the Serbs' anger at their loss.

The past few days have been a time of intense Western pressure on all participants in Kosovo's conflict. Their energies may have slowed the tread of

the Yugoslav state's vengeance, but when it came it was no less cruel, and its step was unfaltering

Ethnic Albanian refugees, including young and old people, make their way to the foot of the mountains near Kacanik after being driven from their homes by Serbian forces

The fighting started on Tuesday morning as Serb army and police units tried to clean the area of KLA," said Otto Bischof, a monitor with attacked immediately by the Serbs, its 350 civilians taking and Co-operation in Europe refuge in a ravine. Observers (OSCE), who arrived to survey noted that it would need more the devastation in Ivaja. "You can see the operation was successful," he said sarcastically. There was no need to destroy all the houses with mortars. It

was a job you could have done with infantry alone." Eighty per cent of the village

was little more than rubble, any surviving houses de-stroyed by flame. The mosque had been raked with anti-aircraft fire and vandalised. Crucially the village's registration office, repository of the birth certificates and identity papers needed by Albanians to exist as Yugoslav citizens, had been ransacked. The village

was silent. Deprived of their homes, livelihood, and bureaucratic identity, 420 of Ivaja's people handed themselves over to the Serbs at Kacanik at the foot of the mountain range on Tuesday afternoon. They were ex-hausted and terrified, their fears not allayed when Serb police seperated the men from the women and children. The latter were sent away from the town to fend for themselves, while the 139 men were herded

into police locries for interrogation in Kacanik Despite soiling their reputation with a pattern of atrocity and human rights abuses. Serb security forces operate with impunity, regardless of Western threats. Indeed, so far the Western-

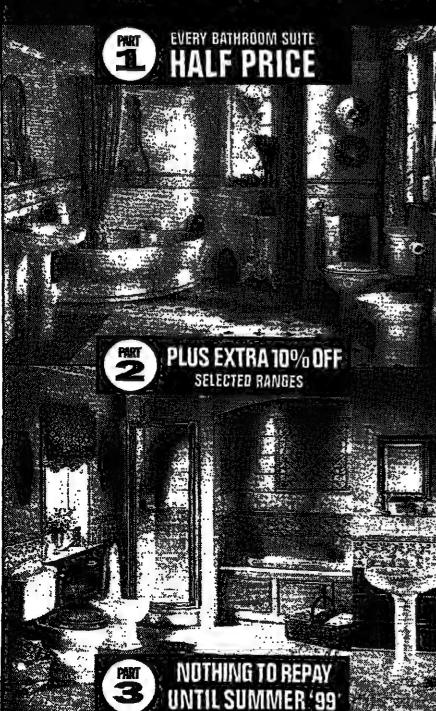
ers in Kosovo, to date mainly OSCE monitors and staff epresenting the United Na-

tions High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), seem little more than waiters come to collect the bill. They are barely able to move at times. let alone fulfil their mission.

"We tried five different routes to reach Ivaja during the fighting," said a UNHCR officer, Paula Ghedini, as the organisation tried to arrange the evacuation of refugees in Kotlina, displaced by the same Serb offensive that destroyed Ivaja. "The Serbs blocked our access to each one. The populations of five villages, as many as 4,000 people, are trapped in the woods and mountains. They cannot escape and they cannot return home. Some have been on the move for the past three to four days, some for as long as two weeks. We can't even find them as we have such limited access."



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Milosevic told 'no immunity'

BY MICHAEL EVANS DEFENCE EDITOR

PRESIDENT MILOSEVIC was offered no concessions yesterday when confronted by American envoys seeking to persuade the Yugoslav leader to sign a Kosovo peace settle-ment, US officials said.

Richard Holbrooke, the American envoy for the Bal-kans, and Christopher Hill, began talks in Belgrade with Mr Milosevic, less than a week before peace negotiations resume in France.

Although there was no apparent breakthrough after the first session, US officials emphasised that "no carrois" were being offered to Mr

There was no question, they said, of offering him immuni-

ty from prosecution for war crimes, should be be indicted. Nor was he going to be guiranteed that sanctions against Yugoslavia would be lifted if

he signed a peace settlement.

Meanwhile, two men from
the King's Own Border Regiment were injured in a fight
between 20 soldiers and waitrant in Skopje, the Ministry of Defence said yesterday

Austrian bomber sent to asylum

FROM NIGEL GLASS

THE founder and sole member of the Bavarian Liberation Army was committed to a mental institution for life yesterday by the criminal court in Graz. Austria, on charges that in-cluded the murder of four gypsies. Passing sentence on Franz Fuchs, 49, Judge Heinz Fuhrmann cited the racial nature of the crimes.

All of the attacks, which started in 1993, were made with boobytrap or letter bombs. The most serious attack was with a bomb planted near the home of gypsies in Burgenland. The bomb detonated when the residents tried to remove an anti-gypsy mes-sage. The blast killed four

men. Other victims included a pol-iceman, who lost both hands while attempting to scan a letter bomb, and a refuse worker who suffered the same fate when he touched a booby-trapped package that had been left outside a Vienna school for foreign students. All the bombs were aimed directly at foreigners or minority groups or at those who sup-

Austrian society, including the former Mayor of Vienna, Helmut Zilk, who lost part of a Fuchs lost both lower arms when he set off a bomb he was carrying at the time of his arrest, in what appears to have

ported their integration into

been an attempt at suicide. The trial provided a macabre speciacle as Fuchs, who had adopted a Hitler moustache and haircut, repeatedly broke into anti-foreigner rhetoric including "flood of foreign-ers, blood of foreigners", while waving his truncated limbs within the sleeves of his pullover. His outbursts resulted in his removal to the cells for a large part of the trial.

The court rejected the defence's contention that Fuchs acted as part of a wider group. The prosecution produced forensic science and other evidence to show that the explosive devices were linked to Fuchs personally.



Trust is removed from managing Onassis fortune

FROM JOHN CARR IN ATHENS

A FORTUNE conservatively estimated at £500 million what remains of the legendary Onassis shipping fortune — is in the hands of auditors after Swiss authorities ruled that its Greek administrators could oriek administrators could no longer control the account.

The heiress to the money is Athena Roussel, the 14-year-old grand-daughter of the late Aristotle Onassis. According to a local Swiss guardianship authority sha has no society. authority, she has "a conflict of interest" with the Athens-based Onassis Foundation that had the task of administering the fortune.

In reaching its decision, the Upper Engadine Guardianship Authority, a non-judicial body, faulted the foundation for hiring agents to spy on Athena and her French father, Thierry Roussel, at their Swiss home last year. It cited a statement by Athena saying, she does not want to have any relationship with the Greek

members of the board". Stelios Papadimitriou, the president of the foundation, was angry about the decision yesterday. "This is ludicrous,"

he said. Lawyers have been told to contest the Swiss authority's decision.

Mr. Papadimitriou and other board members of the foundation remain convinced. and have said so publicly, that M Roussel's aim is to seize control of his daughter's money. Last year, acting on suspi-



Papadinitriou fuming at decision by the Swiss

cion that If Roussel was raising Atheni in ways that would lead her to forget her Greek roots, the foundation hired agents to spy on the Swiss household. The attempt backfired when several people were arrested.

The onassis fortune is now in the lands of KPMG Fides. a Lucene-based auditing company. Mr Papadimitriou said that in one respect he was satisfied that M Roussel was exclude from any role in admin-istering the fortune. He added that in her will, drawn up shorty before her death in 1988 Christina Onassis had stipplated that M. Roussel should be excluded from any parin administering the Onassis family fortune.

One ... a fine set of rate failure painted ponets

Police protest delays sale of Italian royal antiques

Richard Owen reports on last-minute action as House of Savoy collection goes under the hammer in London



One of a fine set of six

talian painted panels

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SOTHEBY'S was forced yesterday to freeze the sale of valuable lath-century antiques from the collection of the former Italian Royal Family, the House of Savoy, after Ital-ian authorities intervened to object that they were part of the country's heritage.
General Roberto Conforti,
head of the carabinieri anti-

art their unit, who had asked the auction house to withdraw 24 lots of "exceptional value to the state", later agreed the sale could go ahead, subject to a 35-day "review" by Italian police of the export procedures in-volved. He said that if, at the end of that period, the Italian authorities were able to prove that items had been "improperly" exported, the sale would be declared invalid.

A notice was read to prospective buyers at the sale, in English and Italian, warning that selected pieces would not be released for 35 days, adding: We are confident that the licences are in order." Robin Woodhead, chief exec-

utive of Sotheby's Europe, was "amazed that the Italians should have raised objections at the last moment... We have been discussing this with them since the sale was announced last November." A Sotheby's spokesman said

all the artefacts involved, including mirrors, inlaid tables and cabinets valued at up to £100,000 each, had "legally obtained export licences". He emphasised that the proceeds of the sale — which involved about 1,400 lots — were going to Italian charities set up to give jobs to the young, includ-ing a church-run school for furniture restoration.

But General Conforti said that the furniture amounted to a collection "of the highest national importance". Italian police said the disputed items had been presented individually for export in provincial centres such as Bologna. Genoa and Turin, the former seat of the House of Savoy, which ruled Italy from unification in 1870 until 1946. "If the items had been presented as a in this way, the export would almost gertainly, have been blocked. La Repubblica said.

Mr Woodhead said the an-

tiques were a "dealer's collection, not a national collection". and that the Italian Fine Arts authorities in the various towns involved had co-ordinated with each other. "There were 41 rooms of numinure, induding French and German lients as well as Italian ones." He said that there was 'no judicial reason to sup the sale, adding: "We have instructions from a client with full title, and have acced within the law. But we are sensitive to the Italian authorities, and so agreed to a 35 day moratorium. Giovanna Melandri, the

Minister of Culture, said investigations were continuing, adding: "I am pleased that General Conforti took timely action." The general said that Sotheby's had shown the "sensitivity and respect towards liafy's heritage we expect from a serious auction house". The collection was assem-

bled by Giuseppe Rossi, a leading Turin antiques dealer who was close to the former Royal Family. He bought some items from former King Umberto, who lived in exale at Cascais in Portugal, and acquired others at auctions. He died ten years ago, and his property, includ-ing the royal antiques, passed to his sister. Maria Luisa Rossi, now 80, who decided to sell. King Umberto II, the last monarch of the House of Sa-

voy, left Italy in 1946 after a referendum that narrowly abolished the monarchy and founded the Italian Republic. Under the Italian Constitu-

tion, male members of the House of Savoy are barred from returning to Italy. But Prince Victor Emmanuel, the son of the last king, who lives in exile in Switzerland, has petitioned parliament to be allowed to return, provided he and his family do not seek to regain former royal properties or engage in politics. Most former Savoy palaces are now public musuems.

General Conforti said that he had acted after Giovanni Nuzzo, the deputy prosecutor in Cremona, opened an investigation into the way that the export licences were obtained, and after a number of MPs, inchuding Purio Colombo and Raffale Costa, both MPs for Piedmont, and Vittorio Sgarbi.



An ivory-inlaid detail from a 1720s bureau by Luigi Prinotto which went on sale

club for Signora Rossi, the

Mayor of Turin, and leading Italian dealers and collectors

to underline the importance of

an independent MP and noted fine arts authority, had asked Signora Melandri to intervene. Panorama, an Italian news magazine, said that the furniture and art objects formed "the most important collection of Italian antiques to be sold abroad this century".

Carla Enrica Spantigati, Superintendent of Fine Arts in Turin, said that the collection should have stayed in Turin . We have made enormous efforts to restore Savoy palaces and track down furniture and objects of art with which to furnish them. I am very alarmed

at the way this was done."
Sotheby's said the sale had been a "huge success", raising ed items all sold for at least

double their estimate. They include a tulipwood table inlaid with ivory by Pietro Piffetti, which fetched £342,000; an ornate gilded mirror by Giuseppe Bonzanigo, which went for £166,500; a commode, by Bonzanigo, sold for £188,500; and a tulipwood and gilt cabinet by Galletti, fetched £34,500. Many of the pieces carry the Savoy coat of arms, Last month Gianni Agnelli, the powerful head of Fiat, who is an international consultant on the board of Sotheby's, held a dinner at an exclusive Turin



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The tulipwood table by Piffetti fetched £342,000

Angry Belgians seek to build 'Francophonia'

From Charles Bremner in Brussels

IT SOUNDS like something from the Marx Brothers, but the European Union could find itself early in the next state at its heart that goes by the name of Francopi In the minds of outraged

French-speaking politicians, this nation of five million people would be the logical conclusion of a push for sepa-rate powers this month by Flanders, the Dutch-speaking northern half of Belgium.

The push by the Flemish regional parliament has galvanised the country's Frenchspeaking leaders into a rare united stand against what they see as a move to split Belgium into an independent Flanders and a French-speaking nation. Under President Van den Brande, the Flemings say that they are not seeking full independence but a dederation of separate states" in which the concept of Belgium would fade away.

Especially galling for the

designs on Brussels, a Flanders enclave with 85 per cent French-speakers that is a separate region as well as national capital and de facto seat of the European Union.

The new Flemish scheme would bring Brussels under direct control by both French and Dutch speakers, but this is seen by French-speakers as a ploy leading to full Flemish

With Belgian general elections three months away, all the main parties in the Flemish parliament backed the demand for control over tax-raising and spending. If granted, these powers

would greatly extend the devolution that finished in 1993 with a complex federal structture made up of three regions Flanders, French-speaking Wallonia, and Brussels - and three "language communities". These represent Dutch speakers, French speakers and the small minority of German speakers in the east of

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China tightens grip on Tibet

Communists still fear revolt 40 years after flight of the

Dalai Lama, reports James Pringle from Beijing

WITH China's huge military garrison in Tibet on full alert yesterday, the fortieth anniversary of the bloody uprising that led to the Dalai Lama's flight into exile, the Tibetan spiritual leader said in India that Beijing had intensified the repression of his people and would not hold talks.

"A lack of political will and courage on the part of the Chinese leadership has resulted in their failure to reciprocate my numerous overtures," the 14th Dalai Lama told 4,000 Tibetans in Dharmsala, site of his government-in-exile.

As troops in riot gear guarded Lhasa's streets, security police on rooftops around the central Jokhang Temple watched pilgrims, turning prayerwheels and murmuring mantras, quietly marking national uprising day. This was the oc-casion on March 10, 1959 when battles began that left thousands of Tibetans dead and resulted in the god king fleeing over the Himalayan

In Beijing, a senior Tibetan official, Raidi, used the strident language of the Cultural Revolution to abuse the Dalai Lama: he was a "splittist" and a "loyal tool used by anti-China forces"

The People's Daily said that Tibetan society before Chinese intervention "was darker and more cruel than Europe's system of serfdom in the Middle Ages". The Communist Party newspaper added: "It can be said to have been one of the world's most serious violators

of human rights. One Western diplomat in Beijing said: "Seldom has the outlook for the return of the Dalai Lama and the survival of Tibetan culture looked so bleak."

Indirect communication with Beijing broke down late last year at the same time as China's leaders, afraid of social unrest because of widespread job losses in the state sector, cracked down on Chinese political dissidents. President Jiang Zemin had

, 6 Monks and nuns who shout slogans in praise of their exiled god king are tortured?

ing a visit to Beijing by Presi-dent Clinton by offering talks with the Dalai Lama on condition that he recognised Tibet

and Taiwan as parts of China. The Dalai Lama, the 1989 Nobel Peace laureate, said yesterday that he had requested a meeting with Beijing before responding to President Jiang's comments but was snubbed. Observers note that he al-

independence, for Tibet, and advocates non-violence. In Beijing an important

ways speaks of autonomy, not

exhibition shows the alleged benefits that the Tibetans have enjoyed since Chinese troops invaded the territory in 1950, and the official press is full of articles praising Communist Party rule in Tibet, without mentioning the destruction visited on Tibetan monasteries and religion during the Cultural Revolution.

When the Dalai Lama left with 80,000 followers for Dharmsala, a former British hill station, it was only to be a brief exile, they thought.

surprised critics last June dur-But 40 years on, the Dalai Lama remains in exile, looking ever less likely to return to his winter residence at the Potala, and to the 2.5 million Tibetans in what is now the

Tibet Autonomous Region. Yet if the 63-year-old spiritual leader did return he would scarcely recognise Lhasa; the capital, which, with the exception of an enclave around the Jokhang, looks like any other drab Chinese city. He has described what is

happening as "some kind of cultural genocide".

About 100,000 Chinese have poured into Lhasa looking for a better life. For the first time, Lhasa has traffic jams as well as lurid advertising hoardings, tacky high-rise blocks and pollution.

The Chinese authorities control Lama Buddhism rigidly crush any opposition. According to human rights groups, monks and nuns who shout slogans in praise of the Dalai Lama or independence



The Dalai Lama at a ceremony in Dharmsala yesterday commemorating the revolt

Hollywood crusaders join protest

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

TWELVE time zones from California, and travelling without the perquisites of stardom, Richard Gere and Goldie Hawn lent star power if not political clout to the gathering of Tibetan exiles in northern India. Mr Gere, a practising Buddher and friend of the Dalai Lama, has become a regular visitor. has become a regular visitor to Dharmsala on the anniversaries of the 1959 Tibetan uprising, not least because he is barred from Tibet itself. "The human

rights situation is getting worse," the actor told one reporter. "The Chinese are carrying out a systematic genocide." Such outspokenness has not endeared

him to Beijing, which banned him from Tibet when its plight became Holly-wood's most fashionable foreign policy

LINKS

crusade with the release of two major films two years ago. Harrison Ford and his wife, as well as Steven Seagal (who claims to be a reincarnation of a holy Tibetan icon), were among those denied visas to the remote country as Hollywood's interest rose to fever pitch with the making of Seven Years in Tibet, starting Brad Pitt and Gerr's Rad Corner ring Brad Pitt, and Gere's Red Corner.

Ms Hawn, mingling at the gathering with Tibetans who had made the trans-Himalayan trek, said: "It breaks my heart that these gentle people have been the object of abuse."

Libyans guilty of French bombing

Paris: Six Libyan intelligence agents, including the brother-in-law of Colonel Muammar Gaddafi, the Libyan leader, were sentenced in absentia to life imprisonment (Susan Bell writes). A French anti-terrorism court found them guilty of the 1989 bombing of a French aircraft in which all 170 people on board, including four Britons, died.

France has issued international arrest warrants and will apply to Libya to impose the verdict on the six men — or face

apply to Libya to impose the verdict on the six men — or face reinforced sanctions. The trial came as Colonel Gaddafi seemed set to hand over two Libyans to face charges in Europe in connection with the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am airliner over Lockerbie in Scotland in which 270 people died.

TV plea to Redgrave

Los Angeles: The estranged husband of Lynn Redgrave, the British-born actress, has made a television appeal for her to drop divorce proceedings and continue their 32-year marriage "lock by the feet and the Bedgraval were 56 years riage. "Look, I'm 66 years old. You [Redgrave] were 56 years old just yesterday, and I just think we're a lime old for all this nonsense." John Clark, a director, said in a television interview. "So please, I love you. Settle down and lighten up." Ms Redgrave filed for divorce on March 1. (Reuters)

Antigua re-elects PM

St John's, Antigua: Car horns blared and supporters jumped for joy as Lester Bird, 61, whose party has dominated Anti-guan politics for decades, won a convincing election victory and was returned as Prime Minister — despite charges of corruption. Mr Bird's Antigua Labour Party won 12 of 17 parliamentary seats in Tuesday's election, one more seat than it held in the previous Government. (AP)

Lusaka reporters held

Harare: Four Zambian journalists were arrested, a fifth is on the run and a sixth was refusing to allow police to enter his home as President Chiluba's Government cracked down on "unpatriotic" press (Ian Raath writes). All are reporters on the independent daily Post, which said that Zambia's ill-equipped army of 20,000 could be easily crushed by a 10,000-strong division from neighbouring Angola.

Meteorite from Mars

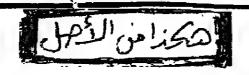
Scientists have identified a new meteorite from Mars after an anonymous donor handed it in to a museum in Italy (Nicholas Booth writes). It is the fourteenth known fragment of the Red Planet to be identified after landing on Earth. The sample, the size of a coconut and weighing about 5lb, was found in the Libyan Desert near Dar al Gani in the Sahara.

Back to the USSR

Moscow: Russia's Communist and nationalist-dominated parliament voted overwhelmingly to reintroduce the Soviet anthem — but without lyrics. The provisional anthem will stay wordless while poers struggle to find the sentiments to fit the melody. Bringing back the Soviet-era time would have to be approved by President Yeltsin, seen as unlikely. (AFP)









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President Clinton listens to a speech by President Flores of Honduras during a tour of areas affected by Hurricane Mitch last year

Clinton's visit fails to build bridges in Central America

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN MIAMI

positive light."

role in the past is proving less

easy to wipe away. In Guate-mala, where Mr Clinton

NEARING the end of a fourday trip to Central America, President Clinton's efforts to paint the US role in the region in a humanitarian light threatened to come unstuck yesterday when local leaders raised complaints over Washington's policy of deporting illegal immigrants. Mr Clinton has been at

pains to draw a distinction involvement in Central America's bloody civil wars in the 1980s and the post-Hurricane Mitch relief effort in which American soldiers have flown food and medicines to the needy and helped to rebuild bridges and roads.

In a speech to American soldiers in Honduras, Mr Clinton said they were metaphorically building new bridges of

spent yesterday, an official Truth Commission pubunderstanding between the US and Central America. You have shown the people lished a report two weeks ago of Central America the true colours of our men and womthere, it concluded that the en in uniform," he said. US gave money and training It is a point that US offito the Guatemalan military cials in Mr Clinton's delegawhich committed "acts of gen-

tion seem anxious to emphaocide" against the country's sise. "Clearly there have been apprehensions in the past about the US military," said indigenous Mayan Indians. Mr Clinton found that any goodwill the US has earned Michael Hammer, a spokesmore recently is being underman for the President's National Security Council. mined by a policy of deport-ing illegal Central American immigrants that local leaders "But the way we responded immediately through our milsay is fuelling the region's ecoitary to provide assistance (afnomic crisis. After Hurricane ter Mitch) has cast a new light on the US military, a Mitch the Clinton Administration agreed to halt deportations. But the moratorium still in effect for those from But the murky American

China policy blamed for US spy scandal

THE Clinton Administration was desperately trying to de-fend its relationship with China yesterday as criticism grew over the way it reacted to suspicions of major nuclear

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weapons espionage.

Al Gore, the Vice-President. aware that the furore over the sacking of a suspected Chinese spy could severely damage his hopes of winning the presidency, blamed former Presidents Reagan and Bush for the alleged passing of top secret information to China.

This did not stop furious accusations that the Clinton White House had been lax about tightening security and catching the spy because it feared upsetting China.

Wen Ho Lee, a Taiwaneseborn scientist at the Los Alamos National Laboratory, was fired this week over suspicions that China had been given in-formation that enabled it to leap a generation in the con-struction of nuclear weapons and develop missiles with mulDamian Whitworth reports from Washington on the search to

explain lax missile security

The information was believed to have been passed in the 1980s, but its theft was discovered in 1996 and reported to the White House. Mr Clinton has been accused by Republicans of failing to tell Congress about the discovery, of being complacent about the need for stricter security and of taking no action to catch the suspected spy. Mr Lee may have been under investigation for up to three years.

It is charged that Mr Clinton was anxious not to upset China at a time when he was preparing for the "strategic partnership summit in 1997 and his administration was facing an investigation into claims that China had partly funded his 1996 campaign. Mr Gore insisted that the

had done all it could to clean up the mess. "That happened during the previous administration back in the 1980s. As soon as the investigation identified targets the law enforcement community handled that very aggressively and it result-ed in a presidential directive that completely changed the security procedures in the weapons labs," he said. Mr Gore, who was at the

centre of the China fundraising row and was criticised over a meeting he held with Li Peng, who as Prime Minister had ordered the Tiananmen Square crackdown, also defended the "constructive engagement policy towards China that Steve Forbes, the Re-publican presidential candi-

in which we can try to affect their behaviour and improve human rights, eliminate unfair trade practices and bring about the kind of changes that will lead to further democrati-sation in China [is] in our inter-

est," he said. But Republicans once again smell blood and Trent Lott, the Senate majority leader, said it was clear there had been "lax security" and an investigation would be launched to find out why it had taken so long to address the security problems.

Christopher Cox, the Repub-lican chairman of a select committee investigating US mili-tary and commercial dealings with China, said he feared that it was part of a pattern in which weapons labs failed to take even minimal steps neces-sary for counter intelligence". The spy row comes as the White House prepares for a visit next month by the Zhu Rongji, the Chinese Prime Minister, amid tension over

scandal in years. Those who worked with Wen Ho Lee at the National



Heng's view in Lianhe Zaobao, Singapore, of the Chinese-American spy affair

Friends shocked by charges

BY DAMIAN WHITWORTH

THE scientific community at the supposedly top-secret, high-security nuclear weapons research laboratory at Los Alamos is reeling after the dismissal of a quiet, friendly colleague who is suspected of being the Chinese spy at the centre of the biggest espionage

Laboratory in the foothills of

the Rockies in New Mexico and were his neighbours in man," he said. Others said he the suburban community that was well-liked and should has sprouted near by, said they were bewildered that he have been given a full hearing before he was dismissed. should have been fingered as Mr Lee, in his late fifties, is

the guilty man and cast out. understood to have been at Mr Lee has made no com-Los Alamos since 1978 and in ment, and disappeared when the 1980s began looking at nuclear weapon design and in his name became public. But particular how thermonuclear Don Marshall, who had lived next to him and enjoyed his bombs are triggered. His alhome-cooked Peking duck, struggled to believe his friend leged involvement in spying was reportedly traced to his trip to China in the late 1980s.

Smoking cowboy packs it in

Nicaragua and Honduras -

is set to end for those from El

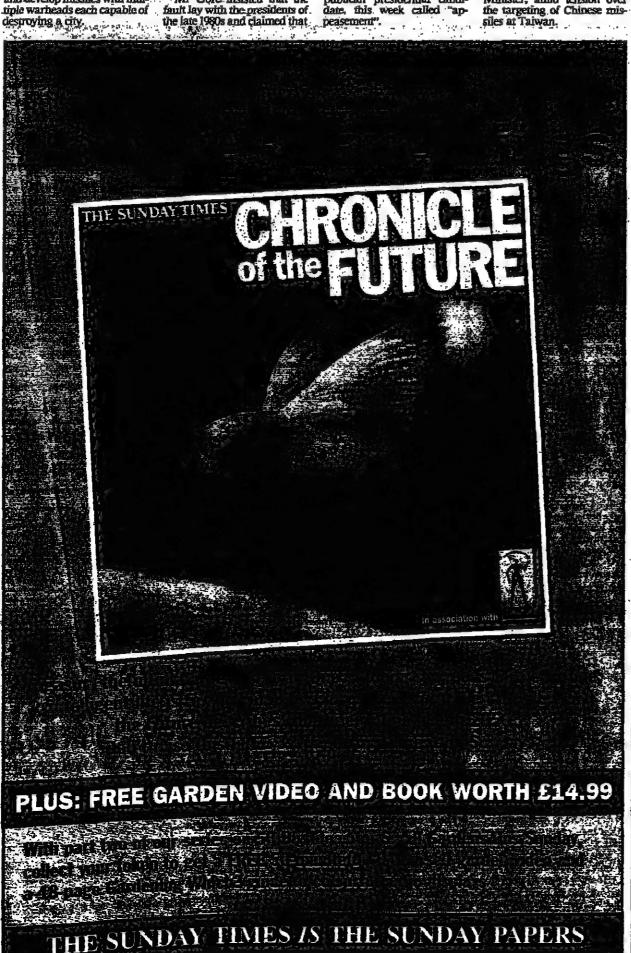
Salvador and Guatemala.

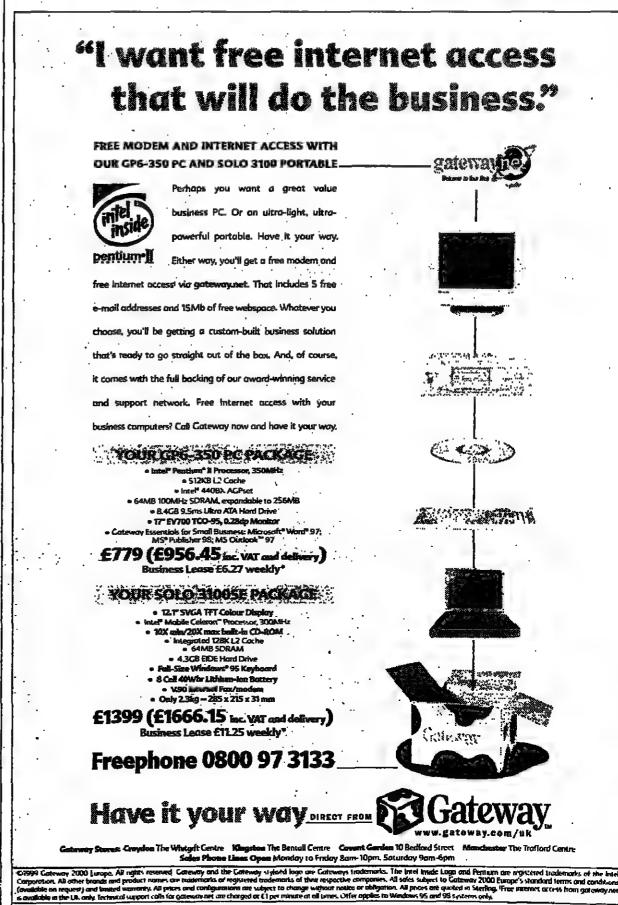
FROM GILES WHITTELL IN DOS ANGELES

HE WAS six storeys tall, towering over Sunset Boulevard with the mystique of an outsider and the confidence of a man who appears to know his own desires. Now the world's most famous Marlboro Man is gone, outlawed by a clause in the \$206 billion (£126 billion) settlement between tobacco firms and state governments that requires all cigarette billboards in America to come down by April 23.

For many, this red-shirted cowboy beside the Chateau Marmont hotel where John Belushi died of an overdose transcended advertising. A 1991 Los Angeles Times art review described it as "a more enduring urban monument than almost any other building in

Los Angeles". But a crew arrived on Tuesday morning to prove once again that only impermanence permanent in this place of lifestyle. One onlooker called the sign an institution and its







Dr Thomas Stuttaford reports on babies and jaundice; a new comb that kills lice; James Major and postural hypotension; transient ischaemic attacks (TIAs); and conditions that affect driving ability

Spotting the danger of jaundice

persists

after ten

days it

must be

acted on'

ments, cross the placental barri-er and an all-providing mother excretes them. A healthy newborn is pink — or bright red — but within a day or two many show signs of jaundice.

In most cases this physiological jaundice merely gives babies a healthy look, more like a tan than a yellow hue. Once a baby has to battle with the world on its own, it has to excrete its own bilirubin, and if the system is

bilirubin then starts to accumu-Premature babies are much more likely to be jaundiced than those who are delivered at term, but whatever the cause a close check is kept on it and the doctors make certain that it never reaches a point where damage is done to the child. Physiological jaundice clears more quickly if the baby is feeding well and kept well

late in clocking in, the

hydrated Physiological, normal, jaundice starts to show after two or three days and has usually disappeared by the time the child is a week old, although tests may show that the blood's bilirubin level is still raised until the tenth day. Fortunately it is usually mild, the baby is not unwell and does not stop feeding. Jaundice in the first two days, or persisting after the tenth day, always needs special investigation.

There are various causes of jaundice that show almost immediately after birth. including incompatibility between the mother's and the child's blood, unusual fragility of a baby's red blood cells, and

The causes of neo-natal jaundice, which comes on between the second and fifth day, at the same time as the physiological type, include various metabolic diseases in the mother and infections in the baby, especially those of the urinary or bile

Late onset, persistent jaundice, from ten

to 14 days, is not always the result of asserted, albeit that breast-fed babies tend to remain jaun-'If jaundice diced for a longer period. Above all else, biliary atresia and an underactive thyroid are two very important causes of persistent jaundice which need early diagnosis and treatment. If an underactive thyroid, hypothyroidism, is not diagnosed and treated within a fortnight or so, the chances of a complete recovery and nor-mal development are significantly reduced.

Likewise, biliary atresia, in

uses a loop of bowel to form an artificial

duct down which the bile can drain when done in one of the skilled centres

and when it is done in an ordinary district general hospital. If only one case a year is operated on, the likely success rate is 17

per cent - in those units in which five cas-

es or more are treated, the success rate is

future depends on the skill of the surgeon,

the experience of the team, as well, of

course, as an early diagnosis by paediatri-

cians, GPs and health visitors who have

persistent jaundice, dark urine and pale

stools and should consult their doctor if

the baby's skin or the whites of the eyes

Children's Liver Disease Foundation:

Mothers should be on the lookout for

been caring for the baby since birth.

are at all yellow after ten days.

The foundation reckons that the baby's

which the bile ducts both inside and outside the liver become progressively blocked as the result of an inflammatory process, needs urgent surgical treatment. Surgery before eight weeks is essential if the baby is to have the best chance of a successful operation. If the bile drainage is not established, liver function slowly deteriorates and then the child's only hope of long-term survival is a

The Children's Liver Disease Foundation has drawn attention to the difference in outcome between this life-saving operation - the Kasal-portoenterostomy, which



Can't get rid of hair lice? Fry them

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY. and its medical entomology cen-tre in particular, has always been in the forefront of the battle against lice.

Recently the centre produced a paper on laboratory tests of the Robi Comb, a battery-powered comb that zaps the creatures by electrocuting, or dehydrating, them in an effective method of detection and control. The incidence of attacks waxes and wanes; during the Second World War they were very prevalent. The lice that affect human beings are of three different types those that live on the head, the body or in the creases of clothes. The present scourge among children is head lice.

It is estimated that about four million people, not all of them children, catch lice each year. The life span of a louse is only 40 days but it can lay many hundreds of eggs during that time. The eggs are attached to the base of hair shafts and are known as nits. The start of every school term sees a series of outbreaks as lice are easily spread by shared brushes or head-to-head contact in the playground. If the hair is fair, the lice are light in colour, in a brunette they are brown.

There are many chemicals that will poison lice but parents are concerned about their toxicity. The Robi Comb delivers an electrical charge from a 15-volt bat-tery. No shock reaches the patient as every alternate tooth is covered by a resin, preventing a circuit from being set up with the scalp.
As the comb is drawn through the hair, it buzzes, but the buzzing stops each time it comes into contact with a louse. The louse is brushed away, buzzing restarts

Tense time for James Major

ames Major and the vicar of a parish within the remit of my former practice do not have much in common, other than a tendency to suffer from postural hypotension. Both, it seems, are likely to collapse if they stand up too quickly, particularly if they

are tired and tense. What would be an incident of no concern other than to their friends and family becomes a general talking point because, in different ways, both the vicar and the son of the former Prime Minister are public figures. My vicar's worry - he was a strait-laced man who only occasionally blew the dust off his sherry bottle before pouring a small glass for favoured parishioners flock might think he was drunk. It is well-known that postural hypotension, also known as orthostatic hypoten-

sion, is worse after drinking. The blood pressure of suffer ers falls dramatically when they rise to their feet. Their circulation is slow to respond to the increased demands of the

upright posture.
This is because there is some impairment in the sensors in the arteries which stimulate the changes in the circulation that compensate for the upright position and enable the heart to keep the brain upplied with blood. Without an adequate blood supply to

mas from a grateful patient.

DOCTORS are frequently asked by

patients about ailments that would neces-

situte restrictions on driving. Even more often, doctors feel obliged to bring this issue up themselves, even if it means missing out on a bottle of whisky at Christ-

The DVLA sends a booklet to GPs

which provides guidance on this thorny subject. Now Dr Nicholas Millard, a GP

in Malvern, Worcestershire, has teamed up with Boehringer Ingelheim in Brack-nell, Berkshire, to produce a revolving

disc that gives doctors immediate access

to information that helps them to advise

All the common conditions that make driving unsuitable can be found around

the brain, a person collapses in a crumpled heap and may, occasionally, even have a

The condition is much more common in the overstressed and in those of middle age

In the elderly many of the drugs used to treat blood pressure can have this effect - as

more of the age of the con-

scientious parson than James

can antidepressants and antipsychotic drugs - because

dency of blood to pool in the feet, and barbiturates, which dull the senses. Drugs with an amphetamine type reaction, including Ecstasy and co-

caine, reduce the tendency to this problem.

This vasodilatation is also enhanced if the person has a temperature, the room is very warm, or if they are overtired. All these conditions cause swelling in the lower extremities, even if the arterial sensors are working well. A heavy weal increases the circulation of the blood to the stom ach at the expense of the rest of the body. This, too, increases the likelihood of sudden collapse upon standing up-

these drugs reduce the sensi-

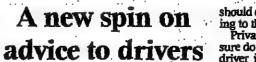
- if they can be called that

that increase the likelihood of

tivity of the sensors.

What is the best treatment? Deal with any particular cause, such as heart disease or diabetes. If there is no such cause, increase the number of early nights, try not to wine and dine too abundantly and if sitting in a warm restaurant, rise to your feet very slowly. If lying flat, it is as well to sit on the edge of the bed before standing up - a discovery made by many preglikely to suffer from it.

James Major collapsed during a night out with Emma Noble



the edge of the disc. Several operations are considered to be a bar to driving for a period. A GP could, for example, centre the disc on a transient ischaemic attack to learn that the ordinary domestic driver who has had his first attack should hide

his car keys for a month. If such a patient was a Group 2 driver—licensed to drive a heavy-goods vehicle or a minibus with more than eight seats—

he should be off the driving roster for three months. Orivers in both categories

should consult their doctors before returning to the driver's seat.

Private drivers with high blood pressure do not face a ban, but a heavy-goods driver is barred until blood pressure is reduced to under 180/100.

Angina is only a contraindication to private driving if it is induced by driving, or comes on at rest, when it should be aban-doned until the symptoms have been con-

Surgery may also make driving hazardous and doctors should consult the DVLA about operations that they think might impair a patient's driving. The same advice applies when it comes to several different groups of drugs (even if they are not actu-ally a bar) that may affect driving skills.

Warning signs of ischaemia

sient ischaemic stroke has been widely reported. Initial accounts suggested that he had problems with his vision for a short time but he is now back to normal.

A firm diagnosis of a transient ischaemic attack, TIA, is difficult to make and is dependent on the patient's description of what happened. However, there may be associated conditions — an irregular heart-beat, a narrowed carotid artery to the neck, diabetes, high blood pressure or some other disease process which, when

combined with the patient's account, make it highly likely. Usually patients lose function in part of their body so that there may be temporary weakness in an arm or a leg. loss of sensation or unusual feelings, such as pins and needles. It is not uncommon for there to be a transient loss of

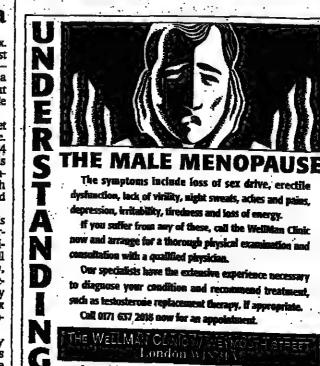
vision in one eye, a condition

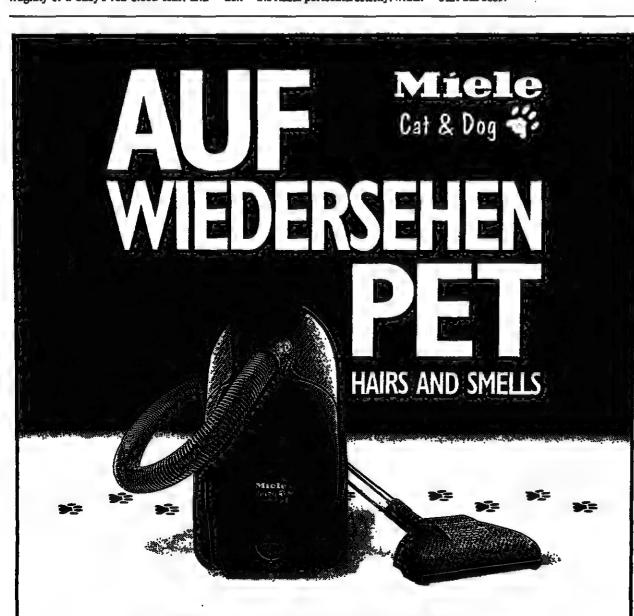
known as amaurosis fugax. Likewise, hearing can be lost or even the power of speech - aphasia. In any TIA there is a small clot, an embolus, that blocks an artery for a while

before moving on.
A TIA is of sudden onset and lasts for only a short time. If it persists for more than 24 hours it is not included in this category. It has to be distinguished from migraine, which can have similar signs and

The treatment for a TIA is the treatment for any underlying cause, coupled with anticlot treatment. Patients will need to take aspirin regularly, combined with Persantin Retard (dipyridamole). Recently a new preparation, Plavix (clopidogrei), has been intro-

Before TIAs were routinely treated, one out of six patients had suffered a major stroke within five years.





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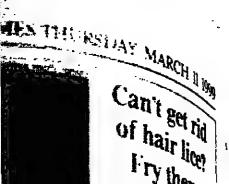
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The Speer that I knew



Albert Speer was a complex man, fearful of society's vulnerability to charisma — a far cry from the

grotesque character depicted in a new play, says Gitta Sereny, author of the definitive biography on Hitler's "great manager"

went to the theatre last week, to see in English a play I had already watched on German television last year. It was called

The last time Albert Speer rang me was on August 31, 1981. My husband and I were in the country for the Bank Holiday weekend, and by the time we heard him saying he was in London for 24 hours and sad not to find us in, it was after lopm on September 1 and

Between that last humorous message - "I wanted to surprise you, spoken in his heavi-ly accented English, no doubt so that my husband, whom he particularly liked, could understand him - and our first telephone conversation four years earlier, on July 15, 1977, he had phoned me, oh, probably 50, perhaps even 100 times. After



Speer in 1973: he died in 1981

had spent a good deal of time working at his homes in Hei-delberg and the south German mountains exploring his him on some special occasions - book presentations, visits to ever spoke about the past; his mind, strange perhaps for a man then already over 70, was almost entirely on the future.

Except, that is, for an occasional mention of a dream he had had the previous night. I finally felt that he rang me every time he had that dream always the same nightmare, of Hitler knowing that he had betrayed him at the end, and tell-. ing him that he knew Speer had wanted to kill him.

Speer foresaw enormous economic developments in Russia, and with them - prophetically, one might think - increasing freedoms accompanied by deep conflicts. He was always certain, and eager to indicate to me every political statement that pointed towards it, of an eventual European economic union, a begin-ning of which he had tried to

initiate with his French courterpart, Jean Bichelonne, in July 1943. "It is inevitable," he said, and indeed it has materialised as the European Union. He was equally prescient about the economic inevitability of national and international mergers within the newspaper and publishing industry and, with it, increasing populism at the expense of quality.

And — almost the only times he still brought up compari-sons with his experience in the Third Reich — he often spoke of his fears, above all for the young, of the ever-rising influ-ence of television: "We can only guess the extent to which Goebbels's dominance over radio and all other media programming won millions of minds for Hitler."

I read in my notes of one conversation we had in 1980; I think we were discussing a dreadful film somebody in Hollywood had recently made about him. "Film and, more than that, television, can do this again, I fear, for future potential despots," he said. "And next time, it won't even need a propaganda genius like Goebbels because ambition and competition — ie, money will drive the powerful visual media to outdo each other in dramatising evil people and evil events ever more grippingly, poisoning the young." Some of this, as I say, are

things he said to me not once

but many times over the years. we knew each other. Some of it is in letters or essays he wrote in prison and later gave to me. And some of it, of course, is in the book I wrote about him. though not all because the book was already too long. But all of it -- representing not only a large part of what he had written, but what he hadread, thought about and the conclusions he had reached then 15 more years until he died - was about the origin of evil, the portents of scientific and technical developments for the future of young generations. And, always the most intriguing and most dangerous to him, the vulnerability of societies, but even more, of individuals, to charisma. (Therewe always stand on the thinnest edge between Scylla and Charybdis," he said.)

A lot of the questions I asked him for the book, and his answers, and statements from other books, including his own, were used in the play. This is normal: unadapted literature is not - cannot - be visual or audible drama. But in the case of the play we are discussing, we are faced with a moral question. I am not referring to the manipulations of historic facts and personalities

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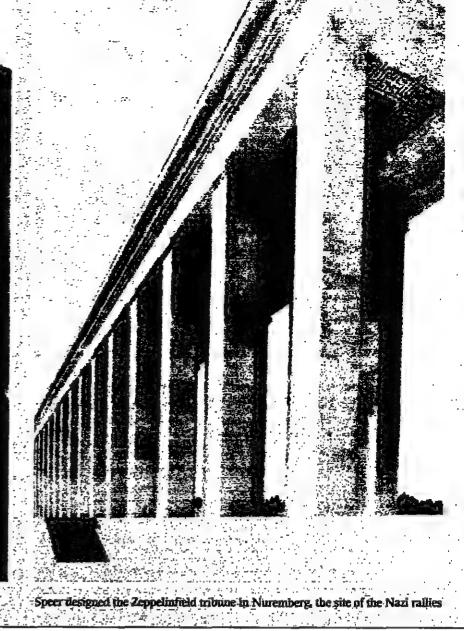
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Albert Spect and Adolf Hiner studying the plans for a new Berlin in 1938.



Shakespeare most of all, engaged in. The greats, writing quite often unauthentically about historical personalities, had no need or inclination to proselytise, but simply adapted their characters to the dra-

ut is that justifiable in modern works concerning personalities discipline or art and however flawed, belong to our time as subjects not only of study and of warning, but also, if they re-

matic needs of their plays.

A good example is Rolf Hochhuth's famous play of the Sixties, The Deputy, about Kurt Gerstein, that fascinatingly ambivalent character. from Hitler's time. It shows how a fine playwright deals in an exemplary fashion with a complex personality, providing his audience

with all aspects of the character but leaving to them the final decision on his motives. Although Esther

viewed on another page today, I must at least sketch its theme, in so far w it substantiates the moral doubts I am raising. It takes 1980, when 75-year-old

Speer is invited to deliver a lecture on architecture in East Berlin, and afterwards to pay a nostalgic visit to his one-time office and creative lair in the Academy of Arts, where Hitler - strolling almost every night he was in Berlin across the small park that separated the building from his Chancellery - feasted his eyes on Speer's famous model of his planned "Germania", the rebuilt Berlin that

was to be the capital of Europe. His guide on this journey into the past is a pleasantly modest and apparently admiring young man called Bauer, who quickly turns into a ruthless inquisitor, uninterested in and ignorant about the real man across from him. He is primarily intent, like virtually all the journalists who interviewed Speer over the years, to prove him a liar in his denial of knowledge about the gas-

sing of the Jews. In Berlin this part was brilliantly played by Klaus Maria Brandauer, who, in a televised panel discussion after the opening there, made a remark of such intelligence and compassion that one will forgive him any mistake, even that of playing Speer in the London pro-

TODAY, IN Section 2

his explosive portrayal of Albert Speer to the London Stage - page 39

Klaus Maria Brandauer brings

His comment came after the moderator had asked one of the panel, Heinz Dürr, who until two years ago was head of German railways, whether, if he had held that job under Hit-ler, he would have kept up as the incumbent of the time. Theodor Ganzenmüller, did -

the extermination camps. Durt, a tall, well-dressed man with a quiet managerial manner, pondered for a long time before he answered: have to say yes, I would have. I was a Nazi-educated boy, inthis would quite simply and without further thought have been a normal part of duty."

the careful scheduling of the

freight trains that took Jews to

Esther Vilar, sitting next to him, shook her head, smiling at him. "I don't believe you, she said. "You wouldn't have." Dürr tried again. "I know it is very hard to see it today as it

was, but that's how we were." Vilar was still smiling: "I think it is a maso-We do not chistic answer. You see the don't know yourself," she said, consolingly. Sentimendifferent tality and prejudice anathema to man that

And this is where he fought Brandauer came in: "I find it wonderful, really wonderto become ful. Herr Dürr, that you are saying honestly as it was or would have been ... You

were brought up a Nazi boy and such a person, grown up, you say, would not have reflected, would just have acted as he was taught to do ... I am so fired of all those people who. 60 years later, can only manage the answer we didn't know. I'm so tired of all these lies: I'm so grateful to you for facing yourself as you would have been. We cannot, must not, criticise such honesty storm of applause from the au dience), for only this can bring us further."

We cannot go into the means Vilar's interrogator employs to force her Speer into submission. For although factually, often grossly, incorrect, the history of the origin of these quite devastating misinterpreta-tions, (which, certainly not of her making, she unfortunately adopted from the subjective writing of others) is too compli-

cated to analyse here. However, her own almost total lack of understanding of Speer's personality is demonstrated in the last 15 minutes of the play, when the apparent reason for the invitation emerges (I will not give away the real one - disclosed in the last

people, though not I, might find entertaining). It is that East Germany's head of state. Erich Honecker, was inviting Hitler's great manager. Speer. to save the crumbling economy

of East Germany.

Having spent 75 minutes watching the physical antics and above all listening to the choleric responses of Speer who would never have gone to East Berlin in the first place, and who was the most re-

man, manifesting even the deepest anger by total stillness and a quiet, icy voice - one is not surprised when this grotesque figure manifests inter-est in this offer and even provides a quick and modern solution to the problem of East Germans escaping to the West: a microchip implanted, on some health pretext, into every citizen. That could be one solu-

tion to the problem," he says.

One would have laughed if all

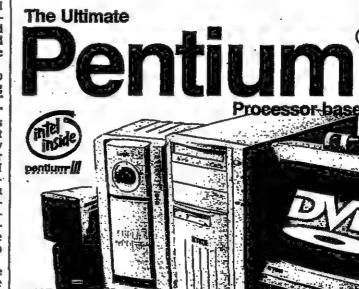
that ignorance had not been so shocking and all that waste of talent and energy so sad. In Vilar's Speer, the years of

his life before and after Hitler never happened: we see nothing of his youth, which caused the breakdown of his morality. we see nothing of the "different man" that the real Speer fought to become. All that any young people (hoping to learn more about this complex figure) will see - indeed, most of us will see, because that is

misguided lack of faith in the capacity and power of remorse, wants us to see - is a cold man moved by nothing except ambition who, as Vilar triumphantly shows in those outrageous last 15 minutes, is the same moral zero in 1980 that he was during the 12 years of Hitler's awful rule.

 Speer runs until March 27 at the Almeida. Islington. 0171-359 4404

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Sons of the Vikings with axes to grind

When it comes to island life,

it's ministers who are insular

ou need to be tough to survive in Britain's northern islands. Perhaps that is why the Vikings, who settled there a thousand years ago, chose those fear-some names: Thorfinn Skullsplitter, Thorstein the Red, Erik Bloody-Axe, and his daughter Ragnhild, described as "a high-born woman of the tigress-harlot type, a consumer of men, thirsting for the blood of her lovers like a female spider. These days things are more conventional. The islanders call their children Ryan and Meg, like the rest of us, and their social habits, so far as I can determine, are rather more prosaic than those of their Viking ancestors. But they still need

Standing on a bleak hillside in Orkney last weekend, my ankles deep in mud as a gale whipped the foam off a dark grey sea. I marvelled at how the island farmers hang on. For almost a year now they have had relentless rain, the worst weather conditions that many of them can remember. They have seen their tractors sink into sodden fields, the value of their sheep collapse, their beef hit by the BSE embargo, their milk and cereal prices at rock-bottom and their European subsidies reduced by the strong pound. On top of all this, as islanders, they face the added cost of transport. To ferry a cow from

Orkney to Aberdean costs £23 a head; for sheep it is £5, which is often as much as the sale price at the end of the journey. To fly from the island's emiss! land's capital, Kirk-wall, to Edinburgh, costs more than a London to Málaga. I once worked out that for the price of an air ticket from London

to Shetland and back, I could buy a round-trip package to Sydney.

And now comes the Budget, with its steep increase in fuel prices. From behind the dispatch box, the Chancellor was able to describe it as a useful measure for protecting the environment. Higher petrol fewer cars choking up polluted high streets; cheaper road fund licences for small cars would penalise big gas-guz-zlers, belching out their nox-

But when your high street is a winding country road and your vehicle is a battered Ford truck, all this talk of aiding the environment rings a little hollow. For the farmer, it simply means another finaricial burden. Aiready fuel costs in the Highlands are the highest in the country, and the Chancellor's extra tax will see petrol in Orkney inching close to £4 a gallon, a full pound more than for the motorist on the mainland. The increase in diesel in particular, by 6.1p per litre, was described by one farmer I spoke to as "devast-

In any other industry, financial penalties of this order would be the cause of furious protest. One can imagine the response from provincial France, where farmers would by now be blocking main roads, releasing live pigs into Downing Street and dumping slurry in ministerial backyards. From Orkney the re- comment@the-times.co.uk

undeniably bitter. Their farmers are among the most resilient and most efficient in Europe.

They have weathered eco-nomic recession and have managed to stay abreast of agricultural trends. But now the odds are stacked too heavily against them.

This is a very urbanminded Government," said one of them, mildly, "They pay lip service to the country and the rural economy, but I don't believe they understand the reality of farming life."
That is an understate-

ment. This Government has presided over an agricultural economy that has seen a fall in employment in Scotland of more than 8 per cent, and a net reduction of average incomes per farm from £5,000 to a wretched £416 last year — a staggering figure. The consequent cost of borrowing has risen to a total of £1.2 billion, which means that £30 million is being paid out in interest alone. We are in Third World territory here. Yet what we to establish a right to roam, access for hill-walkers and land reform, none of which seems likely to add a single job or help a single hill-farmer avoid bankruptcy.

Ministers, of course, point

to negotiations in Brussels. and the snail's pace reform of the CAP. They say that the United Kingdom is

pushing hard for change. And yet one gains no sense that rural areas have a voice that is listened to. What they and, in particular, island economies, need is a level playing field. government

vided at equal prices. Other European countries have a common fuel tariff so that prices are similar all over the country. If

a Mars bar costs the same in Kirkwall as it does in Kensington, why not a gallon of petrol? Other European countries have a public service obligaport costs are the same per mile wherever you are. Why not Britain? Why should the law require that electricity or gas charges be identical throughout the country, while

British Airways is allowed to raise its fares at will, irrespective of the damage it causes to fragile rural economies? It may be that a Scottish parliament will listen more

attentively to its island citizens. And if it does so, the rewards will be considerable. Their needs, after all, are relatively modest. They are not looking for more hand-outs, simply for fair treatment. They are, at heart, an independent and self-sufficient people — they would not be islanders otherwise — and, if given the basic foundations on vhich to build, they can be relied upon to do so.

If not, however, they might just revert to type. Viking blood still runs in their veins, and ministers should remember that people like Thorfinn skull-splitter and Erik Bloody-Axe did not get their names by merely writing to their MPs.



"ON TOTHER HAND, WE'VE GAVED A FORTUNE ON PETROL!"

Come off it, Gordon

popularity and power faces an obvious problem: there is nowhere to go but worry for Gordon Brown. I say this partly because of the growing sense. parry because of the growing sense, inspired by the changeover plan for the euro, that the whole Blair Government is in danger of succumbing to a generalised hubris, while William Hague is finally beginning to get to grips with his job. After the estatic reception accorded this week to his third Budget. Mr. Brown now faces a

Budget, Mr Brown now faces a much more specific and concrete problem. "Everyone's a winner guaranteed prize for every reader," gushed The Sun headline yesterday morning. "Apologies for Brown-nos-ing, but this is brilliant — he's helped every one of us," was the considered view on The Mirror's

front-page.

This is as good as it gets for any politician. Mr Brown's personal popularity can now move in only one way. But what makes matters worse, much worse, for the whole Government is that the feverish expectations created by these headonce people open their pay-slips and penetrate the veils of deception so skilfully flourished by Mr Brown. And when people discover they have been decrived, they are apt to

A portent of future trouble could be seen in Parliament yesterday. when the Prime Minister was trapped by Mr Hague into uttering a straightforward untruth he will live to regret. "How much has the Government raised taxes in its first three Budgets?" Mr Hague repeatedly demanded. "We have not raised taxes, we have cut them." Tony Blair insisted again and again. Yet this was simply false. As shown unambiguously in the Government's own Budget statement, taxes have risen in each of the past two years and will rise even more in the next financial year. In 1999-2000 the total tax increase will be £3.3 billion in cash terms or £2.6 billion once the automatic increases resulting from inflation are taken into account. In later years, the tax burden will rise even more sharply if Mr Brown sticks to the plans he has just outlined. The increase, in relation to an indexed base, will be £3.6 billion in 2000-01 and £4.1 billion in 2001-02. This last tax increase will be roughly equivalent to raising the standard rate of income tax by two

The Chancellor should be honest

about his tax rises, or pay the price

pence in the pound. How, then, could the Prime Minister get away with claiming that his Government was cutting taxes? And why did Mr Brown inspire such enthusiasm in the popular press?

Apart from sheer gullibility, there is another easy answer: "lies, damned lies and statistics". Figures can always be found to justify any statement, including even the claim that Mr Brown has been a tax-cutting Chancellor. For example, he could simply assert that he had cut taxes by £5.1 billion (over three years) in

Tuesday's Budget, while failing to mention that this "reduction" would not even offset half of the £11.9 billion of tax increases already legislated or planned. An alternative obfuscation, ment yesterday by Mr Blair, is to claim that the tax burden will fall in relation to gross doproduct.

This is, of course,

consistent with taxes rising inexorably, even after inflation is taken into account. But even on this Pickwickian definition of what consitutes a tax reduction. Mr Blair was being economical with the truth. He failed to point out that a small reduction in taxes as a share of GDP expected this year by the Treasury
- from 37.2 per cent of GDP in 1998-99 to 36.6 per cent in 1999-2000 is nothing more than a temporary blip, due to the economic slowdown. From April 2000 onwards, the Treasury's plans call for the tax burden, even expressed as a share of GDP, to resume its steady ascent. By the end of the present Parliament, the Treasury's own charts

show the tax burden rising to a level not seen in this country since Nigel Lawson's tax cuts changed the course of fiscal history in 1988. The reason for laying out all these figures is not to attack the logic of Mr Brown's view that the British people must slowly but surely be

persuaded to pay more tax. Person-

ally, I tend to agree with the views of the Liberal Democrats on public spending: the poor state of various public services in Britain would justify a modest increase in the tax burden, provided that the Government could prove itself capable of spending the extra money efficiently and wisely on genuine public goods. I do not even object in principle to the aptly named "stealth taxes" so vehemently denounced by Mr Hague and the Tories. I think the 'stealthiest" of these taxes — the £3

billion raised annually from pension funds by abolishing dend imputation system — is economically well justified. and, in fact, I urged its introduction under the Tories. I also agree with the steady increase in taxes. This has turned out to be the real mother lode in the Treasury gold-mine, raising more than £5 billion a year by the end of

this Parliament and greater riches in the years beyond. I also support the restructuring of family support and national insur-ance, which will see many middleclass and skilled manual workers paying £500 extra in national

insurance per year.

What I object to, however, is the pretence that all of these "stealth taxes" are completely painless and politically irrelevant, samply because they do not show up on our monthly payslips. I object to this partly out of respect for democracy and honesty, but also for less pompous reasons. In trying to deceive the public, Mr Brown risks more than discredit to his own Government. He also puts at risk the steady improvement in Britain's public finances initiated by Norman Lamont and Kenneth Clarke, as well as Labour's own hopes of a better-managed and stronger public sector. Worse still, he threatens the generally excellent prospects for the British economy in the years ahead.

By pretending to be a tax-cutting Chancellor instead of having the courage to explain why modestly higher taxes are needed to fulfil the Government's promises, Mr Brown will be caught in a pincer movement between distillusioned voters and a disappointed public sector. On one side, *The Sun's* readers will demand genuine tax cuts once they realise that the "guaranteed prizes for every reader" announced on their newspaper's front page were little more than a conjuring trick financed by their own spending on petrol, tobacco and insurance.

n the other side, Mr Brown will face mounting pressure from public sector unions and proponents of higger government — since he appears to have so much money to give out in tax cuts, surely he could afford to spend it on public services instead. In this respect, the services instead. In this respect, the, most dangerous single measure in the Budget was the £640 million bounty to pensioners in the form of a Christmas bonus, payable to all. If the Treasury could afford this, it could surely afford anything.

The result of this pincer move-

ment could be to undermine spending disciplines in the public sector at precisely the time when Mr Brown faces maximum pressure to deliver real, honest tax cuts, before the next general election. To make matters worse, public resistance to his stealth taxes could by that time have grown to the point where even the inexorable escalation of energy and tobacco taxes may no longer be politically acceptable. This tax resist-ance would become particularly acute if the Chancellor's luck ran out and oil prices began to rise, exposing the full extent of the Treasury's rising demands. The combination of these political

forces for higher spending and lower taxes could make it far more difficult for Mr Brown to stick to his fiscal plans than the Budget state ment assumes. The consequence of any serious fiscal backsliding would, of course, be higher interest rates, higher inflation and, most probably, a stronger pound. In sum, the political pressures unleashed by this Budger's false promises could create exactly the outcome most abhorred by Mr Brown: a typical boom-bust cycle at the time of the next election. Mr Brown should enjoy his popularity while it lasts.

anatole.kaletsky@the-times.co.uk

Bank account

JUST weeks after Sir Evelyn de Rothschild split from his wife, he has been consoled by a wealthy and glamorous American friend Lynn Forrester (right), who enter-tains the Clintons at her Martha's

Vineyard retreat.

The banking king, 67, (left), saddened friends by separating saddenen menus by separating from his lovely wife of 25 years. Victoria, also an American. The friendly duo have been seen out. recently at Le Cirque, New York.

Ms Forrester, 44, is a millionaire phone magnate who is big in New Yorks Democratic elite.

Andrew Stein, former city council president, with whom she had two sons. In 1993 he abandoned his bid to become New York mayor after his marriage sadly failed.



had a buyer for that house. I gather he was prepared to accept around £750,000 — £35,000 less than the asking price, but the buyer has now not returned calls for several days:

■ GOOD news for James Major — who collapsed in a nightchib earlier this week — and his silicon engined fiancie, Emma Noble.

OK?, that important chronicle of modern culture, is negotiating to part with £250,000 for "exclusive" photographs of their May wedding. The editor believes the marriage will be one of the major events of the year, and wants it whatever the cost," gushes one. The deal might allow the former PM's son to move out of his in-laws in Sidcup.

DESPITE a love of powerful men. Monica Lewinsky almost cancelled her rendezvous with Mohamed Al Fayed at Harrods. Mo asked to give her a gift but his request went down badly. Piqued, he refused to introduce her to the media. His proposed pressie? A box of cigars.

SECRET research shows that Tony Blair's "Islington man" image is so loathsome to Scots that Blair is to replace himself with Gordon Brown as the face of the party for

Focus Groups led by Philip Gould, the luvvy analyst, show that while the PM is seen as too London and Donald Dewar, the Secretary of State for Scotland, comes over as ineffectual. Brown stirs Scottish hearts. He admits he "will spend a bit more time than normal" in Scotland. When my lassie rang to ask if Blair plans to journey north, No 10 hung up.

AS President Khatami of Iran was being shoved around Rome (he has popped over to chat to the Pope and see the sights) his old friend Salman Rushdie was a pizza's throw away in Turin.



ALAN CLARK dined with Titus Oates. Descendant of the 17th-century anti-Catholic agitator, Oates popped over from America to sup in the Pugin Room. Father Michael Seed risked introducing Oates - whose ancestor was "the biggest villain and liar in Christendom" - to prod muncher, Ann Widdecombe and Lord Longford, Clarky rather pricked the party mood by hissing: "Oates was a traitor, a foul man".

LADIES day at No 11. Cherie Blair was so surprised to catch Gordon Brown surrounded by women that she smiled meekly and bolted upstairs to her flat:

AFTER the theatrical budget, 2 Tory frontbencher muttered supportively: "God. I wouldn't be Tory leader for anything." For balance, I should add that as William Hague stuck into Gordon Brown at the dispatch box, the same shaker added: But thank God William is."

JASPER GERARD

'There is nothing moral about our Government sitting like a rabbit in the headlights while a dictator acquires nuclear, chemical and biological weapons'

any commentators, including some in The ingly to the continuing operadeclared war". Most wars are never declared, they just begin. This one, declared or not, is a good and just war against President Saddam Hussein and his disgusting regime. The Prime Minister deserves more support than he has received.

Mr Blair is known to have been shocked at the adverse reaction to Operation Desert Fox. In response he seems to have decided to conduct the present offensive sotto voce. That is a mistake. It invites criticism, as people sense that the Government may not be sure of its ground. And the least good argument for the Government's policy is the only one now put. Our forces, it is argued, are policing the United Nations-sponsored no-fly zones in order to protect the Kurds in the north and the Marsh Arabs in the south. That is true, and it may be noble, but the world is full of humanitarian causes that we cannot fight for.

Much of Mr Blair's problem arises because British governments are not good at debating and evolving a national policy and even worse at communicating it. Too often, officials manage to convince politicians that the issues are so complex the public wouldn't understand. In fact. a new government must debate national policy, first in Whitehall, but then in public. Modern Britons are well informed, those who want to be, and are perfectly capable of understanding the most difficult issues.

Such a debate should begin with an honest assessment of our position in the world and then go on to describe and give priority to David Hart

the Government's goals for the nation. It should identify present and potential threats, not just to the State, but also to its ambitions. Once a national policy is in place, our diplomacy can have clear objectives - by no means always the case under Robin Cook — and a defence policy can be created that will give our diplomacy authority. If diplomacy fails, as it has in Iraq, it is much easier to secure public acceptance for the use of force.

The Cold War may be over, Armageddon postponed, but that does not mean that we do not face real and present threats. Events in far off lands, of which we know little, can have a real effect on our national wellbeing. especially now the global economy interconnects the world so comprehensively. Britain exports

more per capita than any other nation, about 30 per cent of our GDP compared to Japan's 17 per cent and America's II per cent. So it matters more to us than most how the world orders itself. Stability in the Middle East is

as vital to Britain as in any region. Not just for British oil companies and exporters. An erratic oil price could cause severe economic pain, as it did in the 1970s. If Saddam is allowed to destabilise the region and oil prices rise, unemployment in Britain could rise, savings could again be eroded by inflation and living standards could decline -real dangers for Britain that no

government can ignore.
For reasons of history, language and a largely common world outlook, America has and does provide us with generous

intelligence assistance. That gives us a capability way beyond what we could afford to develop alone. With the old Soviet armoury under less than complete control and various unsavoury regimes around the world developing weapons of mass destruc-tion, intelligence is probably more important to our security than any other capability.

or that reason alone, it is wise for a British government to share the military burden with the Americans. where it can and where we share the strategic objective. The present banana split between the Americans and Europe should not cloud that verity.

Finally, for those who find the brute realities of Britain's national interest a little too gamey: the moral dimension. There is nothing moral about a government with our military capability sitting like a rabbit in the head-lights while a dictator who has invaded two of his neighbours. used chemical weapons on his own citizens and has himself video-taped shooting his political opponents, just gets on and acquires nuclear, chemical and biological weapons so that he can threaten or annihilate thousands of innocents who happen to live far from Britain.

In continuing operations against Saddam, the Covernment is protecting Britain's vital the special relationship with America and trying to promote a moral good: the removal of Saddam. This is one government policy that has my full support.

The author was Independent Adviser to the Secretary of State for Defence from 1993 to 1997.

comment@the-times.co.uk

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the DTI chief

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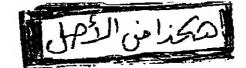
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CHINA WORRIES

Nuclear spies, partisan politics and a troubled US strategy

Foreign policy plays a less decisive role in dismissal this week on suspicion of nuclear does in countries with far less demanding global trade and security interests. But every so often, as with the Vietnam War, broadly based disquiet about a particular policy can throw grit into the party cysters. For Bill Clinton, and even more for Al Gore whose campaign this will be in 2000, it cannot be good news that the Clinton "strategic partnership" with China could be turning into just such a piece of grit.

That partnership policy had already come under fierce fire before the developments of this week. The mainstream view is still that America must handle China's growing military and economic might by treating it, in hope, as a responsible "status quo" power. But there are dozens of vociferous counter-voices, both on left and right. The emotive and divisive post-1949 debate about "who lost China?" subsided after 1979, when Deng Xiaoping's modernisation drive started to open the country up. But distrust of Beijing surged up again with the Tiananmen massacre ten years ago; and the new Chinese missile build-up on the Taiwan Straits raises fears that "who lost Taiwan" could be the awkward political question of the future.

The "China question" has always had the potential to arouse Americans of all political persuasions. Democrats, and not only Democrats, are made restive by China's suppression of dissidents, repression in Tibet and the impact of its huge trade surplus with the US on American jobs. Republicans, who have long been exercised by abortion, religious persecution, copyright infringements, the suspicion that the Administration is weakening in its support for Taiwan and China's part in nuclear weapons proliferation, have broadened their attack since questions surfaced in 1996 about illegal Chinese campaign contributions to the Democrat campaign coffers. Doubts in all quarters about Chinsese ambitions and behaviour have been gravely exacerbated by evidence that, both legally and illegally, China has been acquiring massive quantities of

militarily-sensitive American technology. This is a combustible combination. The

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American presidential elections than it espionage of Wen Ho Lee, a Chinese-American weapons designer at the Los Alamos muclear laboratory, has merely applied a match. Secrets passed by him to Beijing are believed to have enabled China to develop multiple-warhead missiles as sophisticated as Britain's Trident-2. This espionage, as the Clinton Administration emphasises, took place a decade ago, under the Bush Administration; but the Democrat White House knew about Mr Wen's activities as far back as 1996 and has come under opportunist Republican attack for being slow to act, for hiding the truth from Congress and for putting the relationship

with China above other security issues. The case is obviously serious in itself. with the damage to national security ranked by some in the CIA as greater even than that caused by the convicted spy. Aldrich Ames. But it also follows hard upon December's unanimous finding by a House of Representatives committee that US national security has been damaged by China's success in obtaining other sensitive US technology. House Republicans accuse the Administration of delay in publishing this report in declassified form.

The Senate normally veers to mainstream views on China. But its Intelligence Committee now wants to make public parts of its own inquiry into the 1996 campaign funds scandal and into US satellite sales to China. Although partisan politics is at work here - disclosure could seriously damage Al Gore - Senator Trent Lott's talk of charging Administration officials with contempt of Congress may

reflect a wider change in Senate attitudes. In truth, the US needs to worry as much about China's current weakness as its future strength, as is clear from the bleak picture given to the current session of China's People's Congress by Zhu Rongji. the Prime Minister. But when China's internal difficulties coincide with a fresh drive against dissidents and a truculent tone in foreign policy, that does not help its supporters. With patience strained in the US and pragmatism faltering in China, next month's US-China summit will be a tough test of the troubled Clinton strategy.

THE BYERS MARKET

The DTI chief cannot afford to go slow on his reforms

that office since it was reconstituted 16 years ago: Not one has lasted much more than three years and Peter Mandelson served a mere five months before his enforced resignation. This instability has undoubtedly damaged the DTI within Whitehall. While this is neither a tragedy for British trade nor for industry, there are positive initiatives that the department can take to expand enterprise and competition. It is to the credit of Stephen Byers that these appear to be his objectives.

In a statement to the House of Commons yesterday Mr Byers placed his emphasis on populist new inquiries into the price of several high-profile consumer products. The prospect of the electricity industry and those responsible for the cost of compact discs being called to account will doubtless resonate with consumers. The extension of the league table culture to include the many providers of mortgages will also win plaudits. An international price comparison might also prove instructive. The most significant aspect of his announcement may be the element which, for the moment, contains the fewest details. Mr Byers has outlined his support for a sharp shift in the shape and scope of competition policy.

The Secretary of State argues that a new and independent competition agency should dominate all decisions on mergers. The political dimension of current arrangements has long been controversial. The creation of a small business service,

The political lifespans of Secretaries of providing a single focus for a series of State for Trade and Industry have not been initiatives that are presently dispersed impressive. A dozen figures have occupied across several departments, is plainly sensible. It is also encouraging that Mr Byers has maintained his predecessor's active interest in the promotion of science.

Mr Byers would clearly like to encourage a more transparent approach to competition policy on the lines of the American model. This is a noble aim but will require further institutional reform if it is to be realised. A new independent competition authority will need to be more than simply a renamed version of the present Monopolies and Mergers Commission if it is to be effective. The OFT, as currently constituted, is unlikely to pursue its expanded mandate with vigour. Mr Byers should make these issues the central priority of his forthcoming consultation document.

There is also little point in reducing the capacity of politicians to intervene in competition decisions if they can achieve similar ends by different methods. If new institutions are to be truly independent, they should set their own agendas rather than respond to ministers' instructions. The international price comparison and other hard evidence should determine the decision to launch an investigation. This would be an accurate replication of US arrangements. It would also ensure that sections of industry did not find themselves under constant inspection. Mr Byers has displayed sound instincts which can be made concrete in substance. He has the chance to shape a policy that serves the interests of entrepreneurs and consumers.

JACK THE DRIPPER

Ways of seeing a load of new Pollocks

"Is he America's greatest living artist?" asked Time magazine in 1949. A key New York critic had recently hailed a brooding, puzzied-looking, painter as the most important artist of the age. But many, this landmark article explained, still believed that Jackson Pollock, the man in question, made "nothing more than interesting if inexplicable decoration". Still others condemned his paintings as degenerate - "as unpalatable as yesterday's macaroni".

Pollock may be dead now, thrown from a car and slammed headlong into a tree at the age of 44. He habitually drove drunk, as if tempting the demons which had taunted him throughout his life to take their final toll. But critical confusion about his stature has long since been cleared up. Pollock is hailed as a founding father of Abstract Expressionism. His legend hangs around him like a cloud. The wild, personality of this disorderly, live-hard died-young alcoholic American is marketed as part of his work. And as a major Pollock retrospective opens at the Tate. London may congratulate itself for the second time this year. Once again, the capital becomes the only European venue

for a most significant show. Yet visitors flocking to see the work would do well to remember the doubts of

that Time article published 50 years ago. A generation of critics have sealed up a reputation with red tape. Only uncertainty will return it fresh, as alive and enigmatic as it was meant to be. Spontaneity was the essence of Pollock's raw, sprawling style, of the paint splashed straight from the psyche of a rebellious boho. The canvas was less a construction than an arena of action. What unfuried on the long boits of cotton rolled out across his Long Island studio was less a portrayal of intention than an improvisation, a dazzling record of some spur of the moment dance. The Tate judiciously installs a video of Pollock in its rotunda so that visitors may watch the artist at work, swinging, pouring, spattering dripping. It is an important reminder of how his work became what it is.

There will still be visitors who see nothing but macaroni. "Apocalyptic wallpaper" was one well recorded put down. Others will be surprised by the squiggles and splatters, awed by the energy, or confounded by a scary sense of void. It does not much matter. Instinct is more important than intellect in this show. Pollock himself said: "Don't look for anything. React." And that is what thousands of visitors; in positive and negative ways, are about to do.

Does every teacher need a laptop? **Budget's critics** voice their dissent

From Mrs Fiona Saunderson

Sir, Under which definition has the "family" benefited from the Chancellor's Budget (reports and details, March 10)? If family includes in its meaning an employed husband/
father, an unemployed wife/mother, who acts (by choice) as principal carer for a child/children, then the Government has sent a clear anti-family. ment has sent a clear anti-family

Gordon Brown is scrapping the married couple's allowance in April 2000 and a further 12 months will elapse before the launch of the children's tax credit. Further, the Chancellor has structured the proposed credit in such a way that it clearly discriminates against a family where only one parent earns. Under his scheme two parents can earn £30,000 apiece and claim the children's tax credit, whereas only one in the household earning more than £38,500 loses the right.

Tony Blair and his Government need to state clearly what they define as family.

Yours faithfully, FIONA T. SAUNDERSON, 5 Thornhill Square, NI 1BQ. ggull@dial.pipex.com March 10.

From Mr Trevor Kemish

Sir. As a non-smoking, enterprising, hard-working, self-employed, proper-ty-owning family man my disposable income will fall following Gordon Brown's Budget.
I should like to know what I am

doing wrong and in an effort to redress this situation would be interested to know where I can purchase a reliable, practical car big enough for my family and business but with an engine of less than 1100cc.

Yours, TREVOR KEMISH. 17 Whitebeam Road, Hedge End, Southampton SO30 0PY.

From Mr Peter White

Sir, I find Gordon Brown's 6p rise in the price of diesel fuel both disappoint-

ing and perplexing.

I have just exchanged a small petrol car for a small diesel car and have thereby almost exactly doubled the miles I can achieve with one gallon of fuel. It would seem to me, therefore, that diesel emissions would have to be 100 per cent more polluting than those of petrol to justify Mr Brown's actions, as I burn half the amount of fuel to travel the same distance. Even the gloomiest scientific reports do not suggest that this is the case, indeed it is my understanding that a well-tuned diesel engine is less damaging to the atmosphere than a petrol engine. In the rest of Europe diesel remains a

cheaper option than petrol. Mr Brown wants us to use public transport: nearly all buses and taxis run on diesel.

Yours faithfully. PETER WHITE, Southview. Upper Guildown Road, Guildford, Surrey GU2 5EZ.

From Mr D. J. Brock

Sir, The usual oversimplification and claims by Mr and Mrs Average to be a pound or two better off. In fact, as happens every time, road fuel goes up so everything goes up.

Yours faithfully. D. J. BROCK, 76 Buchanan Road, Rugby, Warwickshire CV22 6AZ. March 10.

From Mr Jeremy J. H. Westwood

Sir, The real losers from yesterday's Budget are those who live and work in the country. We already suffer from the Government's ridiculous beef on the bone ban and other factors, and now face a huge rise in fuel costs, with no other means of transport available. Does anyone care?

Yours faithfully, JEREMY J. H. WESTWOOD, Mire House, Cautley, Cumbria LA10 5LY. jeremy1943@aol.com March 10.

From Mr David Lindsay

Sir, I could not believe my eyes when reading in the Chancellor's speech that the levy on business use of energy is to be offset by a reduction in employers' national insurance contribu-

Apart from the fact that there is no obvious connection between payroll size and energy use, such raiding of the national insurance fund, when there are so many legitimate claims on it, is shameless.

Yours faithfully DAVID LINDSAY. 36 Orchard Coombe. Whitchurch Hill, Reading RG8 7OL. March 10.

From Mr Peter A. Rushforth

Sir, The Chancellor has increased cigarettes by 174:p. Is the Government planning to reintroduce the 1/2 coin?

Yours truly, P. A. RUSHFORTH, 36 Sutton Drive, Cullingworth, Bradford BD13 5BO. March 10.

1 Pennington Street, London El 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From Mr Tony Holland

Sir, I am one of the 1,000 fortunate teachers who has already received a laptop computer from the Govern-ment (report, March 6). Almost a year later, I do not know how I ever managed without it. I am the head of a small village primary school and it has been invaluable for administrative work, as well as preparing for our overloaded and impossible national curriculum (including the literacy

hour). The children have also benefited and all ages and abilities in my class (seven to eleven-year-olds) use the e-mail facility and website with confidence. They have also created a website and are continually working

to improve it.
In spite of this I would much rather have had the money instead of the computer, digital camera, printer and a year's access to the Internet, to replace the 5 per cent budget cut I suffered last year — in real terms £4,000 which, coincidentally, is what my computer and all the equipment

Yours faithfully, TONY HOLLAND, 65 Millmoor Way, North Hykeham, Lincoln LN6 9PJ. acholland@portables1.ngfl.gov.uk March 6.

From Mr Gary Longman

Sir. The government scheme to provide all teachers with a laptop costing £1,000 will cost nearly £60,000 in my school. The news comes at the end of a week when I was informed that, under the Government's "fair funding" policy, my school budget has been cut by £90,000 for next year.

Perhaps the Government would be better considering the question; is it better to give every teacher a laptop, or have every teacher standing in front of a class of the smallest possible

Yours faithfully, GARY LONGMAN (Secondary school head teacher). The Ridings, Station Road, Barnack, Stamford, Lincolnshire PE9 3DW. gll@globainet.co.uk March 8.

From Mr Francis Charters

Tory beliefs

focusing on them.

the wilderness.

Yours faithfully.

DAVID GOLD

March 10.

From Mr David S. Gold

Sir, I am a computer teacher in a spe-cial needs unit. The Fund for Learn-ing offered one of our units over £1,000 to get on the Internet. But since putting in the bid to the fund over six months ago, I have put another centre on the Internet, at the cost of £50 for a

today feel the need to criticise Mr

Hague as he prepares the Conserva-

Surely it is right that after such a

thumping defeat the Conservatives

should learn the lessons and respond

appropriately. The Conservative Par-

ty leader has repeatedly said that he is

not abandoning core Conservative principles. On the contrary, he is re-

Just as Mr Blair was forced to

change his party's beliefs to fit the

electorate, so Mr Hague is bringing

his party back in line with the elect-

orate's beliefs — Conservative beliefs. If he is prevented from doing so, I fear

that the Conservatives will remain in

tive Party for the next election.

Euro elections

Sir, I regret that your correspondents

Sir, Dr David Butler and Mr Peter Snow call (letter, March 6) for two administrative changes to the conduct of the counting for the June European

proportional representation system, manual counting of bits of paper by a

electronic counting, which has the vir-tue of being quicker, simpler, cheaper and more accurate?

ROBERT MORELAND. 3 The Firs. Heathville Road. Gloucester GLI 3EW. r.moreland@virgin.net March 8.

Where now brown cow?

9a Bond Street, Ealing, W5 5AP.

Sir. Professor Stock (letter, March 5) stakes a rival claim for ownership of the real hide of Jenner's cow for St George's Hospital Medical School, in competition with Gloucester Folk Museum (letter, March 3), and speculates that Jenner had perhaps more than one animal. This reminds me of the craze for relics in the Middle Ages, when the number of purported fragments of the True Cross would have been enough to populate a forest. It is surely much more likely that

tion of Jenner was an early development, and relic-hunters were soon at work, with all the associated fallout such as forged autographs. Many of the relics, genuine and

my own institution. It might be appropriate for all such saints' relics to carry a government health warning. Yours faithfully

ner, where it had hung in the library

which is often slow. As for buying each teacher a laptop, I consider this a waste of money. Laptop computers are considerably more expensive to purchase and mend than desktop computers and they are more vulnerable to breakage and theft. Before we consider expanding infor-

Though I have spent much time on

the Net I fail to see much use for it in

the classroom. Having one computer

on the Net has been useful for de-

monstration purposes, e-mail, down-

loaded sites for the pupils' later ref-

erence and teachers' research. I believe books and materials come

higher in our priorities than machine-

reliant technology such as the Net,

mation technology in our education system we should make sure all children have access to our present service. I was in a mainstream comprehensive school recently where a class of 14-year-olds had one lesson on the computer a week (two to a machine). in one term of the year. This is not acceptable.

Yours faithfully, FRANCIS CHARTERS, c/o II Eastnoy Grove, Learnington Spa. Warwickshire CV31 1LD. March 6.

From Mr Michael Barrast

Sir, The head teacher of my son's secondary school has just written to every parent expressing concern that school budgets in Sussex are likely to be cut this year.

Even now there are not sufficient textbooks either in the classroom or for pupils to take away for homework or GCSE coursework. The £2,000 given by the Chancellor in the Budget to every school for books will, I suspect, only partly alleviate the situation.

Class sizes are about 30, but over 25 per cent of students are designated as having special needs. I believe that in such an environment, academically able students, whether they have special needs or not, are severely disadvantaged - an inequality of opportunity recorded in the school's GCSE results last year, when only 24 per cent achieved A-C grades in five subjects.

Providing each teacher with a laptop for home use may have merit, but what are my son's teachers going to do with them - record continuing failure on spreadsheets and charts?

Regards, MICHAEL BARRATT, 11 Tussock Close, Crawley, Sussex RHII 8BE. mrb@eurobell.co.uk March 10.

From Mr Adam Clapham

From Mr Robert Moreland

Behind their complaints lies the fact

that the European elections, despite the enormous complexity of the new will still depend on the old-fashioned vast number of local government

Surely the time has come to move to

Yours etc.

for many years. On a short study visit

From Dr Richard Aspin

neither hide is genuine. The beatifica-

bogus, fetched up in the collections of

RICHARD ASPIN (Curator of Western Manuscripts), Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine, The Wellcome Trust, 183 Euston Road, NWI 2BE. r.aspin@wellcome.ac.uk March 5.

From Mrs Susan Gove

Sir. From my office in the library at St George's Hospital Medical School I can see Dr Jenner's cow encased in glass on the wall.

The cowskin moved to Tooting when the school and hospital relocated in the 1970s from Hyde Park Corto Johns Hopkins Hospital in Balti-more I was surprised to see a few hairs from the cow's skin prominently displayed in the library. These had been presented by St George's as a parting gift to a visiting physician in

We do not claim ownership of the original horns, which were sold by an impecunious descendant of Jenner's to an American university in the 1930s. Our original horn copies are wooden. The Royal College of Physicians in London is the proud possessor of a single horn from the Gloucester herd.

Yours faithfully, S. GOVE (Librarian and custodian of enner's cow), St George's Hospital Medical School, Cranmer Terrace, Tooting, SW7 ORE.

March 5. From Professor Nicola LeFanu

Sir, Jenner's cow is not bilocating. In his Jenner bibliography (1985) my late father William LeFanu writes: The cow's hide was given by his son Col. Robert Jenner to St George's Hospital Medical School; the hide of another cow. which also provided cowpox virus, was for many years in the chemist's shop of Anderson and Virgo in Worcester.

Yours faithfully, NICOLA LeFANU, 5 Holly Terrace, York YOI0 4DS. March 7.

publication should carry a daytime telephone number They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046. c-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

Letters to the Editor for

English as spoken on her estuaries

From Mr Edward Grayson

Sir, Penny Wark's endorsement of Beryl Bainbridge's condemnation of regional accents (article "Why Beryl speaks for the nation". March 4) has a precedent from equally authoritative sources, the immortal C. B. Fry, and

Lord Birkenhead In Fry's Life Worth Living, pub-lished in 1939, he recalled the vintage years at Wadham, Oxford, in the early 1890s, with F. E. Smith, John Simon and others destined for high office, and particularly the una-shamed ambition of "F. E." before receiving his peerage title taken from his native Birkenhead upon appoint-

ment as Lord Chancellor. Fry emphasised how, when they came up together in 1892, F. E. had a marked Lancashire accent, which soon disappeared. When I enjoyed the fruits of friendship with Fry during the early 1950s while I was persuading him to contribute a generous foreword to echoes of his own era in Corinthians and Cricketers, I queried tentatively whether this was a possible exaggeration, distilled by the misss

of time.

Unhesitatingly the reply was: "It was an accent as broad as Gracie Fields's. As soon as he got rid of it I realised he intended to do something

I am sir. Yours faithfully, EDWARD GRAYSON, 9-12 Bell Yard, WC2A 2LF.

From Mr E. S. Hooper

Sir, George Bernard Shaw, Fabian Socialist, in his preface to Pygmalion (1913, and still, like all Shavian prefaces, worth reading) made the point that society would be less divided if we all sounded the same when speaking. Shaw took it for granted that we should all speak decent, grammatical English.

Responsible radio and television could be very helpful. Instead, irresponsible radio and television spread Estuary English", or what Ms Penny Wark describes as faux-Essex, so that international co-operation has been replaced by inner-national cop-eration, although, to compensate, missiles have been replaced by missals.

Yours faithfully. STANLEY HOOPER, Thurlow House, Epworth, Doncaster DN9 LJU.

BBC 'put-downs'

Sir, The BBC has always been a master of the diplomatic put-down. Its rebuttal of Lord Hussey of North Bradley's criticism — "Much has happened in the media world in the three years since Lord Hussey left' (report, "Hussey attacks BBC spending on bureaucracy", later editions,

March 4) - has an icy effectiveness. Some years ago the BBC was assailed by an outraged Conservative politician whose contribution was edited from a programme I produced. I was asked to draft a reply for the Director-General. I could think of no explanation for my conduct, other than the truth: the contributor had

been crashingly boring. In a masterful paraphrase the Director-General responded to him: "I think you must admit that your contribution was not as effective as it might have been."

Peace was restored. Yours faithfully. ADAM CLAPHAM (Director), Gryphon Films, The Chrysalis Building, Bramley Road, W10 6SP.

Bishops in the Lords

From Mr Nicolas Walter

Sir. If it is wrong, as it surely is, for any religious organisation to have the special advantage of its represen-tatives being automatically included in Parliament (letters, February 22 and March 2), it is surely also wrong for any religious organisation to have the special disadvantage of its representatives being automatically excluded from Parliament.

When Anglican bishops lose the right to sit in the House of Lords, Anglican and Roman Catholic priests should gain the right to sit in the House of Commons. Fair's fair.

Yours etc. NICOLAS WALTER, Rationalist Press Association. 88 Islington High Street, NI 8EW.

Cloudgazing

From Dr Michael N. Rushton

Sir. For the past six days the inclement weather has prevented me from viewing the conjunction of Venus and Jupiter (report, later editions, February 24). I am left with the thought that Jesus was fortunate in being born in Bethlehem. Had he been born in Cheshire, he would have had no birthday presents.

Yours faithfully, MICHAEL N. RUSHTON, Well House, Well Lane, Little Budworth, Nr Tarporley, Cheshire CW6 9DA March 2.

action Supering in large quantities. Should not be used by pregrant women



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE March 10: Her Excellency Madame Mariama Hima was received in audience this morning by The Queen and presented the Leners of Recall of her predecessor and her own Letters of Credence as Amhassador of Niger to the Court of St

Mr John Shepherd (Deputy Under Secretary, Foreign and Commonwealth Office) was The Archbishop of Canterbury

was received in audience by The The Queen held a Council at

12.30pm.
There were present: The Right Honourable Margaret Beckett (President), the Right Honourable Lord Carter (Captain, Gentleman-at-Arms), the Right Honourable Lord Hardie (Lord Advocate) and the Right Honourable Jack Cunningham (Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster).

The Baroness Hollis of Heigham, Miss Hilary Arm-strong, MP, Mr Richard Caborn, MP, and Mr Ian McCarmey, MP. ere sworn in as Members of Her Majesty's Most Honourable Privy

Mr Alex Galloway was in attendance as Clerk of the Council. The King of Swaziland and Her Royal Highness Inkhosikati visited The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh this alternoon and remained to Lunch.

The following were invited: Prince Maguga, Princess Lomb-langano, Councillor T.V. Mthethwa (Chief of Zombodze Area and hold), the Hon A.M.H. Shabangu (Minister, Foreign Affairs and Trade), His Excellency the Rev Percy S. Mngomezulu (High Com-missioner for Swaziland). Sir John Kerr and Mr John Doble.

A Guard of Honour, found by the 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards, was mounted in the

The Major General Command-ing Household Division and the Field Officer in Brigade Waiting

The Right Honourable Tony Blair, MP (Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury) had an Audience of The Queen this

BUCKINGHAM PALACE March 10: The Duke of Edinburgh, Founder and Chairman of Duke of Edinburgh's Award Inter-national Association, this after-

noon departed RAF Northolt for His Royal Highness this evening attended a Dinner for the Benelux Award in Antwerp, Bel-

Brigadier Miles Hunt-Davis is ST JAMES'S PALACE March 10: This morning The Prince of Wales opened a new branch of Lloyds Bank in Buenos

His Royal Highness later visited the Buenas Ordas Organic Farm-ing Project for street children. This afternoon His Royal High-

and inaugurated a joint UK-Argen-tinian material handling and **BUCKINGHAM PALACE**

March IO: The Duke of York gave a reception for Understanding Industry at St James's Palace. March 10: Today is the Anniversa-ry of the Birthday of The Prince Edward.

His Royal Highness, Trustee, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Foundation, this aftermoon attended a Gold Award Ceremony followed by a Reception cremony followed by a Reception or The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Young Canadians Chal-lenge, in the Hotel Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. **BUCKINGHAM PALACE**

March 10: The Princess Royal this morning arrived at Kyoto Station, Japan, and was received by Her (Mr Rodney Cummins).
Her Royal Highness attended a lunch with Non Governmental Organisation representatives at

Doi, Kyoto. The Princess Royal this afternoon visited Warashibe-en, Insti-tute for the Disabled, Hirakata

City. Her Royal Highness, President, Save the Children, this evening attended a Reception and Dinner at the Imperial Hotel, Osaka. KENSINGTON PALACE March 10: The Duke of Gloucester

this afternoon visited Kent and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant (The Lord Kingsdown, KG). His Royal Highness, Commis-sioner, English Heritage, this after-noon visited Bradbourne House,

East Malling, Kent.
The Duke of Gloucester, as Grand Prior. The Order of St John, afterwards opened the new St. John Ambulance County Headquarters and Training Centre, West Malling, Kent.

Today's birthdays

Mr Douelas Adams, author, 47: Mr Terence Alexander, actor, 76; Miss Agatha Barbara, former president, Malta. 76; Sir John Batten, former Physician to The ueen, 75: Mr K.L. Bedeil-Pearce. director international development. Prudential Corporation, 53; Professor A.O. Bens, former Principal. Royal Veterinary College, 72-Dr John Beynon, former Principal, kings College London, 60; Miss Louise Brough, tennis player, 76; Lord Congleton, 69; Sir Kenneth Dover, former President, Corpus Christi College, Oxford, 79; Mr Dennis Enright, writer, 79: Mr Peter Eyre, actor, 57: Mr Michael Flesch, QC. 59: Mr David Gentle man, painter and designer, 69: Mr kmathan Gestetner, director, Marlborough Rare Books, 59: Professor count Hood, 85: Lard Lawson of Blaby. 67: Sir Henry Marking. former chairman, British Tourist Authority, 79: Mr Timothy Mason. director. Museums and Galleries Commission, 54: Vice-Admiral Sir Christopher Morgan, 60; Air Mar-shal Sir Alec Morris, 73; Lord Mowbray and Stourton, 76; Mr Rupert Murdoch, chairman and

chief executive. The News Cornoration, 68; Miss Erica O'Donnell, founder, Study Centre for the History of the Fine and Decorative Arts, 79; Lord Justice Pill, 61; Mrs Jennifer Smith, former Principal. Harrogate Ladies College, 49; Mr Richard Smith, Editor, British Medical Journal, 47: Sir Keith speed, MP, director, Newbridge Partnership, 65; Sir Iain Tennant, KT. former Lord-Lieutenant of Morayshire, 80; Miss Patricia Tindale, architect, 73; Mr Ron Todd, trade unionist, 72; Sir Peter Walters, chairman, SmithKline Beecham, 68; Mr J. Whybrow, chief executive, Philips Holding, 52; Lord Wilberforce, 92; Mr Alan Yentob, director of television, BBC Broadcast, 52

Church in Wales Diocese of Swansea and Brecon The Rev Annette Francis, Curate of

Cockett, to be Rector of Llanelli (Gilwern) The Rev D. Islwyn Davies, Vicar of Pontiets w Llangyndeyrn, St Davids diocese, to be Rector of Ystradgynlais, Swansea and Brecon diocese.



of Westminster, and the Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster with the Cross that will be carried on Good Friday in the Crucifixion procession from the Central Hall to Westminster Cathedral and on to Westminster Abbey

Today's royal engagements

The Duke of Edinburgh, Chancel-lor of Cambridge University, will preside at a meeting of the Cambridge European Trust at Buckingham Palace at 11.30; and as patron and trustee. The Duke of dinner for Charter Founder mem bers at Buckingham Palace at 7.40. The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester will amend the Council for Music in Hospitals' concert at St John's Smith Square, London SWI

The Duchess of Gloucester, as patron, will visit the Bohath Centre (for children with Cerebal Palsy) 250 East End Road, London W2, at 3.00.

Luncheons

Lord Mayor The Lord Mayor gave a luncheon yesterday at the Mansion House for Members of Parliament for Members of Me those present were:

The Hon Peter Brooks, CH, MP. Mr Eric Forth, MP, Mr Milte Gapes, MP, Ms Joan Ryan, MP, Mr Richard Otsoway, MP, Mr Paul Buratow, MP, Mr John Austin, MP, Mr Nigel Beard, MP, Ms Judish Church, MP, Mr Harry Cohen, MP, Mr Jain Duncan-Smith, MP, Mr Burry Gardiner, MP, Ms Elleen Gordon, MP, Ms Jacopd Lulk, MP, Mr Ken Livingstone, MP, and Ms Linda Perhaton, MP.

Lady Mayoress The Lady Mayoress gave a lunch-eon at the Mansion House yesterday for the City's livery companies concerned with the equestrian world. Mr Richard Page, MP, Mr Michael Mates, MP, and represent-atives of the Saddlers', Blacksmiths', Farriers', Loriners' and Farmers' Companies were among

the guests. Academy of Experts Mr Michael Cohen, outgoing Chairman of The Academy of Experts, was the host at a luncheon held yesterday at the RAF Club to mark the change in officers. Lord Howe of Aberavon, CH, QC, Sir Donald Harrison, Her Honour Jean Graham Hall, Mr Richard Freeman (chairman elect) and Miss Marion Simmons, QC, were artiong the guests.

United Grand

Lodge of England Lord Farnham, Pro Grand Master, presided at the Quarterly munication of the Unite Grand Lodge of England held yesterday at Freemasons' Hall.

University news Emmanuel College, Cambridge Elected into Honorary Fellows with effect from February 15, 1999: Peter Michael Beckwith, MA. Jaggan Nath Dhamija, MA.

Restorer's action destroyed work by great painter

By Dalya Alberge, arts correspondent

FIGURES that once strolled in a 17th-century landscape, but were removed in the 1960s by an over-zealous restorer who assumed they were unimportant later additions, have now been identified as the work of one of the greatest 18th-century French painters, Antoine Watteau.

Martin Eidelberg, profes-sor of art history at Rutgers State University of New Jer-sey. says that those figures were by the master himself and not by some insignificant later hand, as previously as-

He despaired at the loss, lamenting that anything by such a great painter should have been dissolved away in turpentine. Most importantly, he warned restorers to learn from this case.

Professor Eidelberg will be announcing his findings in London tomorrow at a Buriington House lecture entitled Restoration: does it reveal or deceive? organised by Art ed to keeping a check on restoration around the world. Long after the painting was

acquired by the Lille Musée des Beaux-Arts as a Watteau, it had been downgraded to an unknown hand of the period. In 1968 it was restored at the Versailles laboratory when all the figures were removed by a restorer who is no longer alive: "When they looked at it and started cleaning it, they realised the figures lay on the

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Sir Henry Tate, founder of the Tate Gallery, Chorley, 1819; Sir Malcolm Campbell, holder of speed records on land and water, Chislehurst, Kent, 1885; Jessie Matthews, singer and actress, London, 1907.

upper surface and cleaned them off."

The landscape is too dark and romantic to be a Watteau. said Professor Eidelberg, who has now not only linked those figures to a known drawing which Christie's sold in 1996, but identified the artist who painted the landscape. It is the work of Henry Ferguson, a British artist who was highly sought after during his lifetime today he is overshad-owed by his father, William Ferguson.

In the 18th century, Professor Eidelberg explained, it was not unusual for artists including Boucher and Fragonard — to add figures to landscapes of the 17th century. To have removed the figures was a total mistake: Watteau is ten times more important than Mr Ferguson.

Other speakers on March 12 include Professor James Beck of Columbia University, New York - challenging the controversial attribution of an ge of Caroid Michelangelo; Michael Daley, director of ArtWatch UK. on what he believes is the National Gallery's misreading of the skull in Holbein's Ambassadors, and Professor A.B Alyoshin from the Russian Academy of Arts, St Petersburg, on the deception of restorers. The lecture takes place from 6pm to 9pm at the Linnean Society, Burlington House, London, WI; tickets

DEATHS: Rolf Boldrewood (Tho mas A. Browne), novelist, Melbourne, 1915; Sir Alexander Fleming, discoverer of penicillin, Nobel laureate 1945, London, 1955: Richard Byrd, aviator and Polar explor-er, Boston, Massachusetts, 1957; Earl Stanley Gardner, crime writ-er, Temecula, California, 1970.

on the door cost £5.

Reception
The London Lestinge
The Chairman of the London
Institute, Mr Julian E. Markham, and the Rector of the London Institute, Sir William Stubbs, were the hosts at a reception held yesterday evening, at the Institute's Gallery at 65 Davies Street, London WI, to launch the Institute's Annual Report. Ambassadors, Members of Parliament, leading figures from the worlds of business, education and art and design were among the guests.

Dinners Association of Lancastrian

in London Air Chief Marshal Sir Richard Johns, Chief of the Air Staff, accompanied by Lady Johns, was the guest speaker at the City dinner of the Association of Lancas-trians in London held yesterday at the RAF Club, Piccadilly. Air Vice-Marshal G.C. Lamb, presi-dent, accompanied by Mrs Lamb,

Cardiff Business Club The President of Cardiff Business Chib, Mr C.N.D. Cole, the Lord Lieutenant for South Glamorgan, Captain N. Lloyd Edwards and the High Sheriff of South Glamorgan, Mr David M. Jones, were present at a dinner held by the Club at the Park Hotel, Cardiff last night. The guest speaker was Viscount Young-er of Leckie, KT. Mr Stephen Solomon, Chief Manager, Royal Bank of Scotland, South Wales, presided.

Lecture

The Pilgrims Lord Healey, CH, delivered The Pilorims' 1999 Reflections lecture yesterday at Senate House, London University, in conjunction with the Institute of United States Studies. Professor Robert M. Worcester, Chairman of The Pilgrims, welcomed members and their guests. Professor Graham Zellick, Vice-Chancelor of London University, also spoke. Baroness Thatcher, LG, OM, FRS, Chair-man of IUSS, was among those

Church news

Free Churches Council
The Rev Anthony Burnham has become Moderator of the Free Churches' Council and Free Church President of Churches Together in England in succession to the Rev Baroness Richardson of Calow.

Retirement His Honour Anthony Tibber has retired from the South Eastern Circuit Bench.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr J.R. Adam-Smith and Miss R.E. Shepherd The engagement is announced between Jolyon, youngest son of Mr and Mrs R.M. Adam-Smith, of Frensham, Surrey, and Rachel, daughter of Mr M.L. Shepherd and Mrs C.C. Main, of West Yorkshire.

Mr J.W. Allan

The engagement is announced letween James, eldest son of the late Mr and Mrs Peter Allan, of Marhamehurch, Cornwall, and Anne, daughter of Mr and Mrs Leonard Bacon, of Bramhall,

Mr N.G. Atkins

and Miss R.C. Bruce The engagement is announced between Nicholas, only son of Mr Geoffrey Arkins, of Hayling Island, and the late Mrs Philippa Ryerson, and Rowens, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Nigel Bruce, of The Barn, Great Durnford, Salisbury.

Dr T.R. Auld and Dr M.C. Mathias The engagement is announced between Tim, son of Sir Robin and Lady Auld, of London, and Marv. daughter of Mr David and Dr Isobel Mathias, of Newcastle upon

Mr D. Boulter and Miss M.R. Sampson The engagement is announced between David, son of Mr and Mrs

Michael Boulter, of Haslemere, Surrey, and Matilda, daughter of Mr and Mrs Alistair Sampson, of Clifton Hill, London, NW8.

Mr A.M. Butchart and Miss J.L. Phelan The engagement is announced between Andrew, elder son of Mr and Mrs M.D.L. Butchart, of Leatherhead, Surrey, and Joanna, daughter of Mr J.M. Phelan, of Swansea, and Mrs R.J. Phelan, of

Toddington, Bedfordshire. Mr S.W. Cook

and Miss M.J. Dentou The engagement is announced between Stewart, eldest son of Lieutenant-Colonel P.W. Cook, retd, and Mrs Cook, of Tunbridge Wells, Kent, and Michelle, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs A.W. Denton, of Hertfordshire.

Mr S.M. Cammack and Miss N. Crossley Cooke The engagement is announced between Simon, son of Mr and Mrs Donald Cammack, of Chigwell, Essex, and Nicola, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs David Crossley Cooke, of Little Coxwell, Oxfordshire.

Mr H.R.S. Clarke and Miss A.S.W. de Campi The engagement is announced between Hugo, elder son of Mr and Mrs Rory Clarke, of Horsted Keynes, Sussex, and Alexandra, daughter of Mr and Mrs John de Campi, of Philadelphia, USA.

Mr E.D.G. Gibbs and Miss S.L. Rossington The engagement is announced between Edward, elder son of Mr and Mrs Simon Gibbs, of Charvil. Reading, Berkshire, and Sarah, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs John Rossington, of Alfreion, Derbyshire.

Mr P. Holland and Miss I.M. Cockayne The engagement is announced between Paul, son of Mr and Mrs A.P. Holland, of St Etienne du Bois, France, and Sana's, The Yemen, and Isabel, youngest daughter of Dr and Mrs E.E.

Cockayne, of Woolpit, Suffolk. Mr N.J. Joyce and Miss E.J. Warren The engagement is announced between Nicholas, son of Mr and Mrs John Joyce, of St Mawes,

Cornwall, and Emma, daughter of Mr and Mrs Douglas Warren. of Caerleon, South Wales. Mr C. McVeigh and the Hon Sophia Baker

The engagement is announced between Charles, son of Mr Charles McVeigh, of Donhead Hall, Dorset, and of Mrs Pamela McVeigh, of Chelsea, London, and Sophia, daughter of Lord and Lady Baker of Dorking

Mr S.H. O'Counell and Miss E.M. McIville The engagement is announced between Sean, elder son of Mr and Mrs W.F. O'Conneil, of Dubbo, NSW. Australia, and Elizabeth. elder daughter of Mr and Mrs A.E. Melville, of Cambridge. The marriage will take place in Australia.

High Sheriffs

The Queen in Council has appoint ed the following to be High Sheriffs in 1999:

ENGLAND jescept Comwall, Greater Manchester, Merseyside and Lancashirej Bedfordshire: Christopher Richard Kilroy,

lvybridge. Dorset: Anthony Graham Yeatman, Coris Mullen, Wimborne. Durham: Frank Nicholson, Chester-le-Street. East Niding of Yorkshire: Andrew Leslie Marr, Beverley. East Susses: Keith Malcolm Hedley Millar, Wadhuru.
Esser. George Ronald Capel Core, Ongar.
Georgestrafure: The Hon Mark William
Vestey, Andoversiord, Chehenham.
Greater London: Roger John Lawrence
Bramble, London SWI.
Hampshire: Valentine Anthony Lewis Powell, Headhourne Worthy, Winchesser.
Herefordshire: Mrs. Rosalie Joan Dawes,
Malvern, Worcestershire.
Hertfordshire: Harry Mornon Neal. Serrasi.
Rickmansworth.

Hertfordshire Harry Mornon Neal, Sarrasi, Rickmansworth, Iste of Wight: Samuel Hundbey Gaskell Twining, St. Lawrence, Near Vennor, Ken: John Bertaard Sunley, Codmersham, near Canserbury, Leicestershire: Mrs. Allison Grahame Wilson, Gauthy, Near Billesdon, Leicester, Lincolnshire: Francis John Fane Martnein Dymoke. Hornessie. Norfoll: Neil William Derick Foster, East Lecham, Kings Lynn.

Northsmptmishire: David Reynolds, week-ley, Kettering. Northamberland: Mrs Ethabeth Maureen Fairbairn. Hallington, Newcastle upon Tyne. North Yorkshire: Andrew Vavasour Hoti-son, Hampsthwaite, Harrogane.

Muchael Charles Fetherston-

west sussess was statut sustantia. Lynurser, west yorkshire: Peter Arthur Hillard Huriley, Leeds. Witshire: Philip Joha Miles, Stanley, Chippenham.
Worosterskire: Mrs Rosalie Joan Dawet, Mahsem. WALES

Clwyd: Derwen Eurfyl Williams, St Asaph, Derhigishire.

Dyied: Jonathan Michael Griffith Andrews,
Taliaris, Llandello.

Gwent: Mrs. Julia Clate Johnson, Llenvilsangel, near Abergavenny.

Gwynodd: William David Innes Edwards,
Rhospoch, Amlwch, Anglesey.

Mid Glamorgan: Devid Hugh Thomas,
Bridgend. oth Glamorgan: Mrs Meriel Watkins.

Lancaster for the ensuing year: Lancaster Lady Stantieworth, of Leck: Greater Manchester: Mr Norman Kelvin Stoller, of Lostock, Bolton; Merseyside: Mr Derek Hazlitt Morris, of Lydiase.

BMDS: 0171 680 6880

PERSONAL COLUMN PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

fortress, and my deliver-er, my God, my rock in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my strongho Psaim 18.2 (NRSV).

ASHBOLT - Oliver William came to stay, on February 6th a Saturday, a brother for Phoebe, and our first son, dad's doing well, and so is mun. Mark, Judy and Phoebe Ashbolt. rnoope Ashboit.

8UXTON - On March 6th
1999, at Chelsen and
Westminster Hospital, to
Anna-Louise (néc Reilly)
and Richard 2 son, Dan
Thomas.

CAPPI - On February 28th COYME - On 6th March 1999 at The Royal Free Hempstead to Angala (née O'Driscoll) and David, a

son, Matthew David, a brother for Stephanie GRDAY - On March 8th, to Siobhan (née Simpson-Nairn) and Ian, a daughte GRES - On February 27th, in Eastbourne, to Caroline and Nicholas, a daughter

Charlotte Amelia Carma a sister for Philippa and GOGGIN - On March 5th at The Portland Hospital, to Evelyn (née Vicenzotti) and Peter, a daughter, Olivis Daisy, a sister for

HEYER - On 8th March at

Angela Rose

The Lindo Wing, St Mary's Hospital, to Kisa (nee Gregersen) and Christian, a daughter, Natasha LYNCH - On March 7th at The Portland Hospital, to Jacqueline (née O'Donovan) and Martin, a

BIRTHS MAY - On March 6th at The Portland Hospital, to Mary O'Nelli and Jeffrey May, a daughter, Olivia, a sister for Colin.

ter Coun.

**RONTERRUBIO - On March

The The Portland

Hospital, to Maru and

Miguel, a son, Mateo, a

brother for Miguel. RAMSAY - On February 25th, to Jane (née MacDonald) and Jamie, is Victoria, Canada, a son, George Arthur Erakine.

STANLEY - On March 8th, to Frances (née Roche) and Peter, a son, Algernon 'Algy' Edmund. Agy Edmund.

MARHWRIGHT - To Tarja and
Rupert a healthy beby boy
Peter Glynn Alexander, on
Wodnesday 3rd March
1999 at 2:13 am 7lb 15 oz in
Los Angeles, California. WOLLOCOMBE - On Pebruary 27th at St Mary's Paddington, to Floma (nee Pearson) and John, a daughter, India Rose.

DEATHS

800TH - Gwendoline, passed awsy on Monday 8th March, mother of Elisabeth and William. Funeral on Thursday 18th March at Corbitts Toy Crematorium, Upminster, Essex at 10.30am. COATES - Travers (Toby), suddenly on 7th March in his 82nd year. Much loved brother of John. Funeral service to be held at St. Peter and St Paul Church Teddington at 2.30pm on 15th March followed by private cremation. Family

DICKE - Pescefully in
Edinburgh, on Monday 8th
March 1999, Enid Marjoris
beloved sister of Jean and
Barbara - Funeral at
Mortonhall Crematorium,
Main Chapel, Edinburgh
on 18th March at 12 mon
to which all friends are
respectfully invited.
Family flowers only
please, but donations if so
desired to Spinal Injuries
Scotland, 150 Bread
Street, Glasgow G51 IDE.

FARRAR - Peter on 6th March 1999 aged 65, peacefully in Chelmaford, Essex, after a short illness Adored father, grandfather, brother and friend.

FIGUEROA - John Joseph Maria, aged 78, died on 6th March 1999 at Milton March 1999 at almost After a long illness. He loaves his beloved wife Dorothy Alexander; children, Anna and Del children, Anna and Dei (Canada), Sr Catherine (Jamaica), Peter and Marceline (Ja), Robert (Denmark), Mark and Jannes (Ja), Esther (Hawaii); grandchildren, David, Alexei, Nadiya, Peetra, Jo, Nara and Stephan; predecamed by

Peetra, Jo, Nara and Stephan; predecessed by his son Thomas (1975). Also survived by his nine ablings and their families; in-laws; and countless other friends, colleagues and students. Funeral: 13th March at 11 am at St Mary's RC Church, Aspley Kill, Woburn Sands, followed by private cremation. Memorial accelerat 3 om on 26th cremation. Memorial service at 3 pm on 29th March at Saints Peter and Paul RC Church, Kingston, Jamaica. Family flowers only. Donations to Monastery of Christ our Saviour. Turvey, Bedfordshire.

AMON - Helen Elizabeth, peacefully with Sally in Devon on 9th March, aged 39, Widow of Arthur and baloved mother of Priscilla, Sally and Guy. Funeral at St Peter's, Milton Lilbourne on Wednesday 17th March at 2.30pm. No flowers

> IARLAND - Joen Mery peacefully on March 10th 1999 after a short Illness. Beloved widow of Tom, much loved by Jane, Ann and Thomas and their and Thomas and their families in England and Australia. Funeral Servic et St Peter's. Stourton Caundle on Monday March 15th et 2.30 pm. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to

> > HYMAN - The Hon. Mrs Laura Alice Hyman (n4e Boyd) died pescefully on February 25th; beloved of her family.

RWM - (Newcatle upon Tyne). On March 8th after an (liness borne with cheracteristic bravery and humour, Anne, beloved aunt of Harley, Leslie and Aldan, great-aunt of William and Kitty and a much loved and admired friend. Funeral Service at All Saints Church, Gesforth on Menday March 15th at 2 pm. Private cremation.
Plowers to John Bardgett & Sons, Westgate Road or donations to St Oswald's Hospice, Gosforth, Newcastle NE3 1EE or All Newcastie No. 350-Seints Church, West

JACOS - Elizabeth, formerly of Little Bealings on March 8th 1999 under the loving care of Aldringham Court, much loved Godmother of Clare, Christopher, Jake and Gillian. Funeral service at Holy Family & St Michael's Catholic Church, Keszrase on Friday March

Michael's Catholic Church, Kegrave on Friday March 19th at 2.00pm, followed by cremation. Flowers or donations of your choice to Farthing, Singleton & Hestings, 650, Woodbridge Road, Ipswich, IP4 4PW. JAMESON - (Née Quinn)
M.B.Ch.B. Anne Rossieen
On March 4th 1999
pecofelly at home after a
short tilness. Much loved
wife of John and mother o
Ross, Michael, Judith,
Clare and George and
beloved by 11

baloved by I1
grandchildren. Requies
Mass at Our Lady & St
Peter Catholic Church,
Aldeburgh on Tuesday
March 16th at 10 am,
followed by refusta ved by private ation. Flowers or mations made pays Allington NHS Trust, c/o Tony Browns Funeral Service, Saxuundham, Suffolk IP17 1DJ.

IARVIS - Donald Edward

Manners, died on 8th March 1999. Private mation. No flowers ase, but doubtions, i ired, to St Andrews Church, Rockb Canren, Rockboarne Restoration Fund (The Treasurer, J. Lobb, Brasside, Rockboarne, Hants. SP6 3NT). A Service of Teankspivin Service of Thankspiving will be held at St Andrew

KERR - Graham Gordon.
Peacefully at Hilton
Lodge, Haddington, on
February 17th 1999,
Graham Gordon Kerr,
hashand of the late Doris.

King - Pescefully in Royal
Alexandra Hospilal,
Paisley on 9th March 1999,
Mary, beloved wife of the
late Thomas George King
(former Rector of Stoke
Charity) and a much loved
mother of Resemany.
Details of femans Details of funeral arrangements from C.W.S., Paisley (0141) 889-6321.

Fairey (0.1-17 663-0524).

KUBBA - M. Hassan Principal of Babel Technical College, on 9th March 1999, died pescefully at home, aged 63. Much loved and missed by family, friends and students.

Enquiries, 0181 788 4242.

MAGLEAN - Gordon, suddenly on March 4th agad 86. Much loved husband of Joan, father of Muray and Donglas and grandizather of Angus, Hamish, Andrew and Duncan. Service and cremation at Oxford Crematorium on Tuesday March 16th at 12 noon. Family flowers only, but decasticas to either the Berks, Bucks and Oxon Naturalists Trust Led or The Imperial Cancer Essenth Fund would be greatly appreciated c/o F L Barrett Funeral Directors, 81 Ock Street, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 5AG.

MAGUSTË - Lisnaskea, Co. Fermanagh, Northern Ireland on March 8th 1999, ireland on March 8th 1999, suddenly Raymond, R.LP.
Loving lather of Benn and Vanessa (London). His funeral takes place today Thursday after Requiem Mass in Holy Cross Church, Linnestee. Very deeply regretted by his son Benn, daughter Vanessa and large circle of family and friends. McALPIN - Jean, pescafully at Albury Hospital, Australia on 10th March. Dearly loved wife of Don, much loved Mummie of Jillie and much loved by Hugo, Rupert and Rachel.

McTAGGART - Agnes Marjoris (née Nancy Goldie) died at St Michael's Hospice Basingstoke on Wednesday 10th March 1999 aged 67. Much loves wife of Michael H. wife of Michael H.

McTaggart and mother of
Kate Allen and Isobel
Kate Isobe

MITCHELL - Lesile John, late of Burton Joyce, Nottingham, peacefully after a short illness at Deverahire Court, Oadby, on 6th March 1999. Dearly loved husband of Kathleen and father of Peter, Janet and Alice, grandfather and great-grandfather. Private family funeral. Memorial Service at 5t Helents, Burton Joyce, Nottingham on 36th March 1999 at 1000. Enquiries to The Collidhell, Bardwell, Bury St Edmunds 1931 1AL, tel: (01358) 251378.

MOULTON - Barbara Aline, peacafally in The Princess Royal Hospital, Haywards Heath on 9th March 1999. Devoted wife of the late Jim Moulton (Major General RM), beloved mother of Caroline and Robert, and grandmother of Leonie. Eleanor and Clio. Will be sadly missed by all family and friends. Funeral Service at Woodvala Crematorium. Brighton on Wednesday 17th March at 1.30 pm. Family flowers only, but donation, if desired, for St Dunstans may be sent

MORRIS - Demis Edward
Morris OBE formerly of
Findon, Sussex, pescelul
on March 8th in his 92nd
yest. Much loved husbans
of Catharine, father,
father-in-law and
grandfather. Funeral
service 2pm, All Saints
Church, Crondall on
Tuesday 16th March
Family Howers only.
Donations if desired to St
Bridgets Cheshire Home,
lier Close, Enstington, W
Sussex: BN16 2EX.
WESTELL - On March 5th

SERVICES

IN MEMORIAM -PRIVATE EATTE - Cheri

to Bowley Funeral Service 30 Keymer Road, Hassocks, West Sussex, Hassocks, West Suss BN6 8AN, tel: 01273

Sossez BN16 ZEX.

WESTEL - On March 5th suddenly but peacefully a warwick Hospital, John Theodore Rex aged 85 years. Beloved husband o Betty and dearly loved father of Michael. All enquiries to A.E. Bennett & Sons (01789) 267035.

THANKSGIVING GORDON - A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Adam Londom Gordon MBE, Major (retd), Royal Norfoth Regiment, will be held at St Mary's Church, Rock Gerdens, Brighton on Friday 9th April at 2pm. Friends welcome.

memories of Peter Henry. A very dear husband and father died 11th March MALLE - Bill, Artist, died 11th March 1998 missed by his friends.

POND - Tania, 11.3.99. Every day with love we remember. May God hold you in the hollow of His hand. Mummy. Daddy.

BIRTHDAYS SERVICES

Agency. If you peeder a phone; 01382715909 WANTED

CHA - Chronic traction required for Paper 11 (OMD), Please constact Manc on 0171 497 9000 (ext 2115) day or 0181 341 3869 MPR COATS, for costs purchased Best price prid. Fleese send enquires & details to box 5320

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PATE PROPERTY.

OBITUARIES

Carmen Gronau, former head of the Old Master Pictures Department at Sotheby's. died on February 15 aged 88. She was born on October 8, 1910 at Freiburg im Breisgau.

armen Gronau was passionate about good paintings, and had the great gift of spotting the quality of a picture, the degree of its importance and hence its potential value on the market. In the postwar art market, as head of Old Master pictures at Sofheby's, she helped the auction house to rival Christie's in her field for the first time, and to increase the excitement and the value of the entire market.

Gronau was short and severe-looking. with dark wiry hair and piercing brown eyes behind heavy glasses. She could be heard from a considerable distance talking fluently and emphatically in English, German, French or Italian, and her resiless energy and natural authority combined to make sure that her presence could not be ignored. But she also had a great sense of humour and was a most loyal and generous friend.

Carmen Ida Joachim von Wogau was brought up at Lilienhof, a wine-growing estate overlooking the Rhine near Frei-

burg. Her father, Max von Wogau, was a Volga German who had inherited large business interests in Russia, but he lost them during the Revolution and his fortune was severely depleted. He married Carmen Devaux, who came from a prominent Anglo-French family, and their daughter Carmen was treated just like her two brothers: educated at the Gymnasium and then at the local

She showed a great aptitude for art history and moved on to Göttingen, where she studied under Nikolaus Pevsner. From there she went to Florence to pursue her research on the Florentine artist Il Cigoli. In 1933 she fell in love with Hans Gronau, son of the eminent art historian Georg Gronau; the former director of the Kassel Art Gallery, who had by then retired and was living in

Once married, the couple settled briefly in Freiburg, where their elder son was born, but then Carmen went out of curiosity to hear Hitler speak at a local rally. She was so appalled that she persuaded her husband (who was half lewish) that they must move to England immediately. Her English cousins helped them to settle in, and work was found for her husband as an adviser to art dealers.

CARMEN GRONAU

When war came, he was interned on the Isle of Man, but he was then released and joined the Pioneer Corps. To ascape from the Blitz. meanwhile, Carmen took their two sons to Beckley Manor in Oxfordshire which they shared with Basil Fielding's family.

After the war, Hans Gronau was Sotheby's as a picture cataloguer, m replace Tancred Borenius, who by this time was not at all reliable on attribu-tions and had become too grand to do the

work of cataloguing. Sotheby's, which had begun as a book auction house, had never been much known for its picture. sales - the more aristocratic Christie's was then the place for Old Master paintings, and even in the 1930s the contents of country houses would routinely be divided between the two - but the



director in 1958 - at that time a highly unusual appointment for a woman.

Her intelligence and flair were especially noticed by Peter Wilson, the most ambitious of the younger directors, who had become Chairman of Souheby's in 1957. As a team, the two were formidable. Wilson had a brilliant eye for objects

In the early 1950s

told that he should

stairs, so his wife

by's 10 do the don-

herself to become a

board was deter for deal-making and colossal charm. mined to change Gronau brought a great knowledge of pictures, a cataloguer's training, language skills and very good European connec-Hans Gronau betions. Both had plenty of courage, and came ill with a though inclined to prima donna-ish behaviour, they were always attentive to other people's expertise and keen to

promote the younger members of the firm

staff. If people were a nuisance or the

picture was poor, she was brusque; if she liked the picture, then a doubting or

recalcitrant vendor would be won over by

as specialists. The story of the rise and rise of Sotheby's under Peter Wilson is well charted. Gronau was closely involved, and thrived on the challenge. She ran the department of Old Master pictures (which then included Old Master drawings) with a certain strictness, but she was just as firm with clients as with her own

equal measures of pressure and charm. The 1960s and very early 1970s were perhaps the most exciting time to be working at Sotheby's, but the rapid growth of the firm meant new preoccupations and new alliances, which loosened the Wilson-Gronau link. After a serious illness Gronau was persuaded, against her wishes, to step aside from running the (though not so much for pictures), a taste department. She moved her base to Florence, where she had opened a Sotheby's office some years previously. following the spectacular success of Prince Paul of Yugoslavia's house sale at

Though she still travelled frequently, it was now from her office in the Palazzo Capponi and her villa at San Domenico. This stunning property, bought in the 1890s by her father-in-law, gave a perfect. uninterrupted view over Florence, and the podere, falling steeply away from the terrace down to the Via Farentina, was quite magical. The house was full of interesting and diverse visitors, for she loved entertaining. Though fond of Harold Acton and John Pope-Hennessy. she was never entirely at ease in the Anglo-Florentine circle, but she welcomed visiting academics, collectors, art dealers, anybody from Sotheby's and, of course, her own relatives and her children's

After the early loss of her husband, she faced further tragedy, with both of her sons, Peter and Philip, dying in their mid forties of the same heart disease. She was naturally deeply affected by this, though she took consolation from the affection of her five grandchildren. One of them, Amanda, moved to Italy after Philip's death, and looked after her devotedly.

COMMODORE WILLIAM WARWICK





The Cunard liner Queen Elizabeth 2, Warwick in command, is escorted into New York Harbour on May 8, 1969

Commodore William Warwick, CBE, RD, Master of the Cunard liner Queen Elizabeth 2, 1966-72, died on February 27 aged 86. He was born on November 12, 1912.

THE first Master of the liner Oueen Elizabeth 2, the 1960s state-of-the-art successor to the Cunard "Queens" of the prewar era - Queen Mary and Queen Elisabeth - William Warwick was nevertheless a master mariner of the old school. A burly figure with full naval "set" of beard and moustache, he epitomised the seadog of yore, and was respected throughout the merchant marine for his seamanship and his unflappable tem-

perament. The QE2, as she soon became known, was considerably smaller than her famous predecessors. The three-stacker Queen Mary, launched in 1934, one-time holder of the Atlantic Blue Riband, was 1,019 feet long and of 81,000 tons gross tonnage. The two-stacker Queen Elizabeth, 1,031 feet and 83,000 tons, launched in 1938, was the largest passenger ship ever built. Yet at only

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963 feet long and 65,000 tons, the QE2 could accommodate virtually the same number of passengers as the earlier

Warwick, whose nickname Bil was always spelt with one Ton his insistence, had been named Master of the OE2 in 1966 while she was still under construction on the Clyde. Following an old (and sound) tradition, he "stood by" his ship as she neared completion at the John Brown shinward. inspecting developments at every stage. "My intention is that nobody will know the ship better than I do," he said

at the time. But even his knowledgeable surveillance could not prevent the problems with the ship's engines which delayed her maiden voyage for four months. A December 1968 pre-maiden cruise with 500 guinea pig passengers aboard was cut short when the ship developed turbine blade trouble and had to limp back from the Canary Islands to Southampton at low speed. Cunard then refused to accept the liner without conducting vigorous sea trials of its own.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

MOTICE is hearby given that the Shop-Minth ASRNIAL GENERAL MIZETING of the GOVERNORS of I has Edward VID's Houghtal for Of-Scans will be held in Agent Keyess House, Bearment Street, London, Wild IgD, at 11.00 am on Western-day 12 May 1999 - By Ooksh Repa-tion C J M Hancisson OBE, Chief Re-

LEGAL NOTICES

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nd Court, Levis 131 238

lt was not until April 1969 that the problems had been ironed out and Warwick was able to take her to sea on an eight-day proving voyage to the tropics and back. Only at the end of that high-speed cruise, during which the engines had sustained the OE2 at speeds of 32 knots for periods of six hours on end, did Cunard's chairman, Sir Basil Smallpeice, profess him-self contented with his new flagship.

Warwick was then able to get down to the serious business of commercial sailing: QE2 made her maiden voyage proper, a cruise to Las Palmas, Tenerife and Lisbon, in the second half of April. Her maiden Atlantic crossing took place the following month, QE2 making the passage from Le Havre to the Ambrose Light, New York Bay, in 4 days 16 hours and 39 minutes. Her reception in New York Harbour was a speciacular affair. A fleet of more than fifty small boats escorted her up the fairway, tugs whistled. half a dozen fireboats sprayed honorific fountains in the air and crowds of sightseers gath-

The Joint Liquidness give notice parameter for fair 4,282A of the in

derolfs, in writing, of any claim against the correspons to M Flatamist at FO Rox 505, 1 Surrey Stower, Low-don, WCIRZ SETT by 1 Japen 1899. The point Liepchitzen also give notice under the provision of Rules (LISTA(6)) that on 10 May 1999, they hissed to under a final system; to crediture who have submitted claims by 10 Agast 1999 and that these will be no further distribution to crediture with the final distribution to graditons will be made without suggest to the sinkins of any persons in support of a debt not always present providers.

ered on the Manhattan and New Jersey shores. Mayor dispatches in 1946. Lindsay went aboard the ship Returning to Cunard after

from a coastguard cutter and finished the voyage in her. William Elden Warwick was born in Birkenhead, the son of an architect. He was educated at Birkenhead from where he went to the merchant navy training ship Conway. He joined the Merchant Service in 1928 and for the next few years served in the Indian Ocean and Red Sea. He was awarded his Master Mariner's Certificate in 1936 and the following year joined Cunard White Star as a junior officer in the 16,000-ton passenger liner Lancastria. În 1937 he was also commissioned in

the Royal Naval Reserve. When war broke out in 1939 he was mobilised for service in the Royal Navy. His next six years were ones of active sea duty. In the early part of the war he served in coastal forces in the Channel and thereafter in corvettes on escort duties on North Atlantic convoys and on the Murmansk route. Later he took part in operations to support the Normandy Land-

Warwick was mentioned in

demobilisation as a lieuten-ant-commander, in the early 1950s Warwick had his first command, that of the cargo ship Alsatia. His first passeninthia in 1958. He went on to command almost every passenger liner in the Cunard fleet including Media, Ivernia, Caronia, Franconia and Mauretania. He was also staff captain and relief Master of the Queen Mary and Queen Elizabeth. During his three years' sea service as Master of QE2 he welcomed royalty. world leaders and famous names from the worlds of showbusiness and industry to join him at his captain's table. In 1970 he was promoted Commodore, retiring from Cunard in 1975. He had been promoted Captain, RNR, in 1960, five years before he

in retirement Warwick was a treasurer of the International Federation of Shipmasters' Association, a Younger Brother of Trinity house, a Liveryman of the Honourable Company of Master Mariners and a Freeman of the City of London. He was appointed **CBE** in 1971

retired from the Reserve.

Warwick was proud of his connection with the QE2: "People simply marvelled at her wherever she went," he recalled. And he was particularly proud of the day in 1990 when his second son Ronald was also appointed master of the ship, a command he holds

Warwick was expected in Southampton next month to join his son in the OE2 for a special anniversary transatiantic crossing to commemorate the 30 years she has been plying between Southampton and New York.

William Warwick is survived by his wife Evelyn, and by three sons.

ADRIAN LOVE

Adrian Love, radio DJ, died yesterday following a lung collapse aged 54. He was born on August 3, 1944.

A RADIO presenter for more than 30 years, Adrian Love was in on the ground floor of popular radio entertainment. In the course of his varied career he worked for the London stations LBC and Capital Radio; for BBC Radio i and Radio 2: and for Jazz FM London and Classic FM. Educated at Tottenham

Grammar School, he was the elder son of the bandleader Geoff Love. His first job was as a tailor for Burton's. He eventually ventured into the world of broadcasting in 1966 with the pirate radio station Radio City. He was on air the day after his interview, and later told a colleague of his dread at reading the news on that first day: "I've never been so scared in all my life. There were three Russian names in

the first story." He moved to the BBC Light Programme in 1967, and after stims on the BBC World Service, LBC and the United Biscuits Network, Love joined London's Capital Radio in 1976. Here he became the presenter of the station's Open Line, a weekly show which invited listeners to call in with their physical and emotional problems.

His five years here as an agony uncle earned him considerable notoriety. He once told a Jamaican caller who was complaining about benefit fraud: "Nobody asked you to come here", insisting he was allowed to say this because



Love in his studio at Classic FM in 1992

one of his own ancestors was a slave. And in 1978, when a young wife phoned him for advice on her separation, he announced his own divorce from his wife Barbara, live in front of his 150,000 audience.

The Labour MP and former Arts Minster Hugh Jenkins anacked radio phone-in programmes such as his for being "ignorant and bigoted". Nevertheless Love's popularity led to a break on national radio when in 1980 he joined Radio I. A year later his Talkabout show won the Pve Award for best children's programme. though Love always said his most memorable moment from his stint there was a one-hour interview special he

He was sacked in 1982 after hosting a show while drunk. and two years later he went public about his alcohol problem. He gave up drinking in 1984

did with Peter Ustinov.

returned to the BBC in 1987. Here his Radio 2 Love in the Afternoon show boasted more than three million listeners, though he was one of several of the station's old guard sacked three years later when a modernising new controller took charge. He subsequently worked for Jazz FM London and, from September 1992 to August 1993, for the newlylaunched Classic FM. He later returned to local radio, playing golden oldies on numerous stations in Surrey and Sussex.

A life-long asthmatic, he was involved in a car crash in 1997 which led to the collapse of one of his lungs. He died after a second lung collapse. Adrian Love married three times. He is survived by his third wife Ros Roux, whom he married in 1990; by a daughter and stepdaughter of that marriage; and by the daughter of

his second marriage.

PROFESSOR ANDREW KELLER

Professor Andrew Keller, FRS, polymer scientist, died on February 7 aged 73. He was born on August 22, 1925.

PLASTICS such as polyethylene may seem mundane to most people, but Andrew Keller and his colleagues found an astonishing beauty at their heart. To him, these everyday materials were undiscovered realms which demanded an entirely new understanding and way of picturing their make-up. In opening up this world, he created a new visual branch of physics, concerned with polymer microstructures. He was a scientist not driven by mathematics or equations. but inspired by pictures, dia-

grams and shapes. Born Andras Keller in Budapest, he left Hungary in 1948 before finishing his doctorate in chemistry. The political climate in Hungary was rapidly deteriorating, and it was to be many years before he could return again to the country of his birth.

In Britain, he worked for a short period for ICI before



joining the physics depart-ment in Bristol, where he set about unravelling the mysterious way in which long chain polymer molecules crystallise to form solid plastic materials. by studying the way polymer crystallises from solution rather than from the melt. Then. using the recently developed art of electron microscopy, he

He simplified the problem discovered very thin and equally beautiful single crystals of polyethylene. While these sinele crystals were also observed by others in 1956, he went a stage further. By studying the

electron diffraction pattern he concluded that the long chain polymer molecules must crys tallise in a regular chain folded manner, in a fashion similar to a string of Chinese firecrackers. This simple but crucial discovery now underpins a large branch of polymer science and technology. So absorbed was he in his subject that when driving to conferences he would occasionally turn to his passenger and forget all about the road.

His unconventional, nonmathematical style was reflected in his presentation of research, and his Hungarian flavoured English ensured that his lectures were always memorable. He was appointed research professor in polymer science at Bristol in 1969. He received many scientific awards, and was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1972. His interests ranged from the microstructure of rat tails to the thermodynamics of phase transitions.

His wife Eva died in 1997; he is survived by a son and a

(III LACOUTIANTON) LINE IN CONTROL OF CONTRO properties 1 To receive a emission on a to the afficies of the Company. 2 To consider mondanthess for the affice of Liepathies yead, if therepit its, to appoint a Liquidatur of the **GREAT GALE AND SNOWSTORM**

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Our Dover Correspondent telegraphed last

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with such information constantly the officin of the Company so they may restainably require. Applica-tion absolute to make to the Liqui-dator or the officin of Buchler Phillips 24 Gebrurnet Debut Lon-ton, Wilk POF. Dave 3rd Manch 1999 D J Buchler, Liquidator

One of the most violent hurricanes ever experienced in the Channel occurred during Monday night and this morning. The strength of the wind gradually increased until between 6 and 7 o'clock, when it was blowing with terrific force, and a blizzard set in and communed beyond midnight. The streets at Dover presented a desolate appearance, and the snow completely blocked up the windows of buildings exposed to the drift. So herce was

the wind on the sea front that it was next to impossible to walk against it. For hours together every place was enveloped in a filick veil of sharp frozen particles of ice and snow. which beat into people's faces like so many pins. The snow in many places in the sown was two or three feet deep. being strewn about in all directions. The reports from the country today are very serious. All the mail services by road have

been entirely stopped, those reaching their destination arriving by train. In one village near Dover it is reported that some of the villagers had to dig themselves out of their cottages through 12th of snow. The trains on both lines have been greatly delayed. The

ON THIS DAY

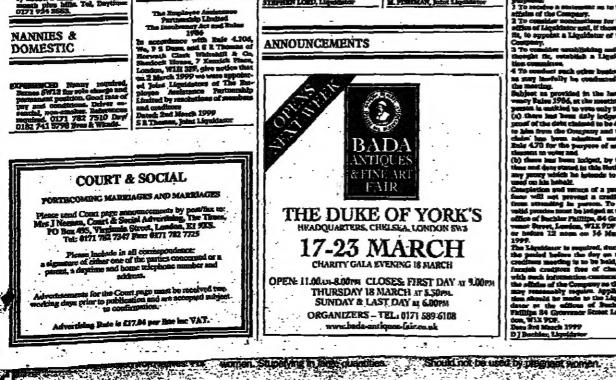
March 11, 1891

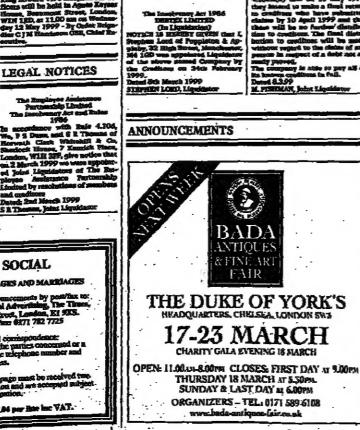
This was one of many accounts of the devastation caused and lives lost in the gale, sent in by correspondents from all over Britain.

earliest train reaching Dover from London this morning arrived about 11 o'clock, being two hours late. It was reported that in some of the cuttings, notably near Shepherd's Well, the drifts through which the trains had to pass were 14 ft high. Very serious damage has been done to the fruit orchards, branches of trees

The most exciting experiences of all, however, were in the neighbourhood of the harbour and the Admiralty pier, where some few persons venumed to brave the night through in watching the disastrous effects of the storm, the say fromently submerging the the storm, the sea frequently submerging the Admiralty pier. A series of exciting incidents

occurred here at 5 o'clock vesterday afternoon. London, amongst the passengers being the Duchess of Edinburgh and suite and Lady Rothschild. The Petrel, one of the small steamers, was to perform the journey to Calais. The passengers proceeded on board, but on her Royal Highness offering, it is stated, some objection to a small heat it was decided to replace the Petrel by the Victoria. The passengers therefore came ashore again. In the meantime the gale was increasing, and the greatest possible difficulty was experienced in getting the vessel alongside the landing no less than two hours being taken in performing this task. The Duchess then decided not to cross in such a fearful storm and proceeded to the Lord Warden Hotel some 30 or 40 of the passengers doing the same. Ultimately the Victoria left, with only 20 passengers. At a quarter past 5 the Calais-Douvres hove in sight of the pier, and the violence of wind and sea may be gathered when it is stated that not until 8 o'clock could she be moored. Those who assisted to get her alongside stated that never in their whole experience have they seen such a fearful hurricane. Rope after rope was broken in the attempt to get her alongside the landing stage. dotwithstanding it was on the lee side of the pier, and it was feared once or twice that she must be driven ashore . . .





THE TIMES TODAY

Fines for traders who overcharge

A nationwide assault on high prices was promised by the Government vesterday as part of a package to boost competition and enterprise.

The Trade Secretary is taking new powers to tackle retailers and utility companies who charge more for their goods than their counterparts do overseas, and companies face heavy fines

Budget leaflet 'is hiding tax rises'

■ Gordon Brown's presentation of the Budget was referred to the public spending watchdog amid accusations that the Chancellor was misleading millions of voters. Francis Maude, the Shadow Chancellor, claimed that a leaflet explaining Budget measures to the public, and produced with taxpayers' money, amounted to "Labour Party propaganda"........... Pages 1, 10, 11

Prince does the tango At the height of a delicate mission to mend fences with our former adversary Argentina, the Prince of Wales allowed himself to be lured onto a dance floor to do the Pages 1, 3

Rapist escapes jail A rapist who bombarded his victim with threatening letters and set fire to her house escaped from prison, seven months after he was made a "trusted" inmate... Page 1

Geldof reaps £6m

Bob Geldof and the Labour Peer Lord Waheed Alli are expected to receive up to £6 million each from the sale of their Planet 24, television company to Carlton Communications....Page 2

Catwalk lures Camilla Camilla Parker Bowles has joined the ranks of glamorous film stars who frequent international fashion shows...... Page 3

Body left for months

A former model has been found dead in her flat, where her body was left for up to three months. Neighbours claimed that her "friends" continued to use the flat to inject heroin......Page 3

Pollock digitised

Hundreds of photographs and films documenting Jackson Pollock at work on his paintings have been fed into a computer, suggesting that his art was not as said that Beijing was not preabstract as it seems......Page 5 pared to hold talks.........Page 18

School racism claim

Many schools are institutionally racist, inspectors said after criticising underachievement among ethnic minority pupils Page 6

London flood plan A network of 50 boreholes, able to

siphon off billions of litres of water a year, is to be drilled to save the London's buildings and underground network Page 9

Britons back boxer

British boxing fans will start arriving in New York today to support Lennox Lewis as he battles to become the undisputed heavyweight champion of the Page 13

Congo expels envoy A British diplomat was accused of spying and expelled from the Democratic Republic of the Congo as Foreign Office officials continued to negotiate for the release of four Britons and an American held since Sunday Page 14

Electric bike push Lee Iacocca, the former Chrysler chairman, has sunk several mil-

lion dollars into an ambitious scheme to sell 1,000 electric bikes

Tibet uprising alert With China on full alert in Tibet for the 40th anniversary of the uprising that led to the Dalai Lama's exile, the spiritual leader

Hypnosis is last gasp for smokers

If the people who packed a theatre for a display of mass hypnosis are to be believed. 700 men and women gave up smoking vesterday. Cigarette butts littered the pavement outside the New London theatre as hundreds of smokers took what they hoped would be their last nicotine fix while queueing to see the hypnotist Paul McKenna...



DUSINESS Package: The Government unveiled measures to help business, especially small business, boost

competitiveness.... Page 27 BNP bld: France's banking sector was in shock after Banque Nationale de Paris launched a hostile £22.7 billion bid to take over two of its biggest rivals, Société Générale and Paribas..... Page 27

James Archer: The Swedish authorities yesterday said that James Archer, the City trader and son of novelist Jeffery, was not authorised to trade on the Stockholm Stock Page 27 Markets: The FTSE 100 index fell

16.50 points to 6221.2. The pound rose 0.23 cents to \$1.6273 and 0.11p against the euro to 67.32p. The sterling index rose to 102.7 Page 30 Football: In the dressing-rooms at Old Trafford, Highbury and Stamford Bridge it has always been accepted that six defeats are as many as a championship winner can sus-... Page 52

Boxing: Ray Mercer, one of only two opponents that Lennox Lewis and Evander Holyfield have in common, thinks that Lewis will win the world championship.....Page 49 Racing: The jockeys Dean Gallagher and Ray Cochrane spoke of their relief and joy after being eliminated from the police's long running racefixing investigation..... Page 45

Bryant's Eye: The latest frontier in the battle for the super-fit body is lung power and the latest weapon is a device which is said to act like a dumb-bell for the lungs Page 50

Cinema 1: She's played the wife in Nixon, The Crucible and The Ice Storm, and now Joan Allen has done it again in Pleasantville. But Hollywood's favourite spouse doesn't mind____ Page 36 Cinema 2: Robin Williams sets the

medical world to rights in Patch Adams, and Pleasantville is both paradise lost and paradise found. New movies reviewed Spanish steps: When Barcelona's Gran Teatre del Liceu burnt down in 1994, plans were quickly laid for

reconstruction. Now the new opera house is almost ready...... Page 38 Model actor: In Esther Vilar's play Speer at the Almeida, Klaus Maria Brandauer manages to upstage the model of the Nazi architect's planned Germania Page 39

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

EXECUTIVES

long-hours culture

The effect of the

and other aspects

EDUCATION

A preview of the 1999

national curriculum

on the family,

of office life

Dr Thomas Stuttaford: Babies and jaundice; a new comb that kills lice; James Major and postural hypotension: transient ischaemic attacks: and conditions that affect driving ... Page 20 ability....

Gullible: Albert Speer was a man with a fear of society's gullibility towards charismatic leaders and a far cry from the character depicted in a play on in London, says Gitta Sereny, author of a biography of Hitler's "great manager"... Page 21

Reviews: How low can she go? Pulitzer Prize winner Natalie Angier's dumbing-down dismays Marianne Wiggins: Malcolm Bradbury peeps into the home life of the Marquis de Sade; Erica Wagner reviews Andrew Morton's Monica Lewinsky biography.... .Pages 40, 41

Best buys: Walking through the Lake District; camping on the Costa Brava; catching Kerla before it becomes too busy......Page 44

THE PROPERTY. The Dalai Lama has been obstinate in his vain attempt to eain "Tibetan independence". During the past four decades, the Dalai Lama has changed some of his tactics, but his attempts to solit Tibet from the motherland have remained unchanged. He has busied himself in

various colittist activities

RADIO & TV

Preview: Dispatches casts its critical eye over the genetically-modified food debate. (Channel 4. 9,30pm) Review: Joe Joseph analyses the underbelly of Europe's drug capital, Amsterdam Pages 50, 51

OPINION

China worries

Every so often, popular disquiet about a particular foreign policy can throw grit into an American presidential campaign. Bill Clinton's "strategic partnership" with China could be turning into just such a piece of grit......Pafe 23

The Byers market

Sharpening competition is a noble aim but will require further reform

Jack the Dripper

There will be visitors to the Jackson Pollock retrospective who see nothing but cold macaroni. Others will be awed by the energy, confounded by a scary sense of void Page 23

COLUMNS

PETER RIDDELL

The mystery over the meaning of New Labour/Third Way has been solved. Gordon Brown's Budget speech provided the fullest definition of those elusive terms, even if the Chancellor himself is too fastidious to allow the words Third Way to pass his lips.....Page 11

ANATOLE KALETSKY

A politician at the peak of his popularity and power faces an obvious problem: there is nowhere to go but down. This surely ought to be a worry for Gordon Brown....... Page 22

MAGNUS LINKLATER

Standing on a hillside in Orkney last weekend, I marvelled at how

DAVID HART

Many commentators refer disparagingly to the continuing operations against Iraq as an "undeclared war". Most wars are never declared, they just begin....Page 22

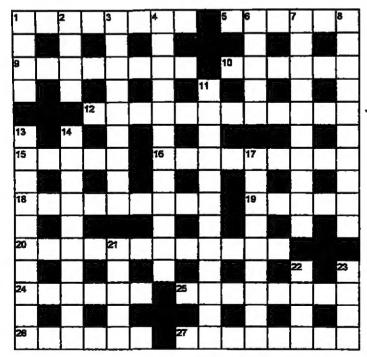
OBITUARIES

Carmen Gronau, former director of Sotheby's: Commodore William Warwick, Master of the QE2: Adrian Love, disc jockey: Professor Andrew Keller, scientist.........Page 25

LETTERS

Budget criticism; laptops for teachers; regional accents: Jenner's brown cow; bishops in the House of The China Daily | Lords: BBC "put-downs"... Page 23

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 21,048



ACROSS

- I Desire a piano, small and dain-
- ty (8).
 5 A way into mine over the hill
- (4.2).
 9 Toughened girl got better after ditching husband (8). 10 Empty words in latest song
- (3.3).

 12 Like a few short of money, shifted into profession (12).
- 15 Conductor describing Purcell's work for St. Cecilia's Day
- 16 Offensive weapon permit held - what an obscenity (9). 18 Money owed round universi-ty, a gambling sum - one was brought to court (9).
- 19 Boasting about home wins (5). 20 It's rude to stop working without consent (12).

Solution to Puzzle No 21.047

PWARDMOBITUTY
A P V R O C W
CLIO BACKSTUICH
L R O B I O B
SYNTAX GLECTRON

24 After a short time, firing becomes stressful (6). 25 Strong criticism of ethnic group after assistance is rejected (8).

26 Show hide to vet (6). 27 Advanced in party initially, without much energy (8).

it's a separate state, unfortunately (4). Knock and slightly wound (4). Doll found in the Easter collec-

tion (9). Workers' joint units producing something wonderful (3.4.5).
6 In Asian city, you'll find old marketplace (5).

clubs, arousing mixed emotions (10). 8 Jeremiah. for one, confused Ted, in short (10). 11 People selfish today - conclu-

Magic trio moved around

sion of my parents' meeting 13 Frank married off friends to eli-

gible people (10). 14 Seeing American teenager, po-liceman soundly beats her (5-5).

17 Central part in Verdi I perform, allowed to take title role

21 Information about a type of painting (5). Green half of Irish town (4). 23 Parking in Paris is a nuisance

Times Two Crossword, page 52

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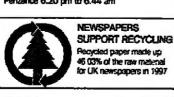
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HOURS OF DARRESS

Sun nees: 6.24 am Sun sets: 5.57 pm Moon sets: 11.10 pm New moon March 17 Moon rises 2.24 am New moon March 1.7 London 5.57 pm to 6.22 am Bristof 6.07 pm to 6.32 am Edinburgh 6.07 pm to 6.37 am Manchester 6.05 pm to 6.32 am Penzance 6.20 pm to 6.44 am





THE



tests for ages 7 and 11 ☐ General: much of England and Wales will start cold and frosty but cloud will build in southwest, bringing rain to South Wales and southern England, which will spread north, and it will turn milder. Another band of rain will spread a southern England and Mildered.

spread across Scotland and N Ireland; any snow mainly confined to the peaks. Blustery showers in far NW.
Tonight, rain in NW Scotland, falling ronight, rain in NW Scotland, falling as snow on hills and mountains. E Scot-land cold and largely dry with clear breaks leading to frost. North Wates, N Midlands and E England largely dry with clear spetts. Cloud will roll in off the Channel, with rain arriving in the south and west during the early hours, possi-bly reaching South Wates before dawn.

□ London, SE England: bright at first, a few surny spells, but rain in afternoon. Light SE wind. Max 10C (50F) □ E Anglia, Midlands: bright at first with a few surny spells, but rain this afternoon. Light SE wind. Max 10C (50F) □ Cent S, SW Eng, S Wates: rain will spread N and E; dner, brighter in afternoon. Light, variable wind. Max 9C (48F) □ E MW Cent N Product N Wates. E, NW Cent N England, N Wales: cold, bright with surnry spells; rain in af-temoon. Light S wind. Max 8C (46F)

☐ Channel Is: early cloud, rain; drier, bright later. Light S wind. Max 11C (52F)☐ Lakes, IoM, NE Eng: early sun; cloud, rain in afternoon and evening Light/mod S wind. Max 7C (45F) ☐ NE Eng: early sun; cloud and rain later. Light/mod S wind. Max 7C (45F) ☐ Brdrs, E'burgh & Dundee: mainly

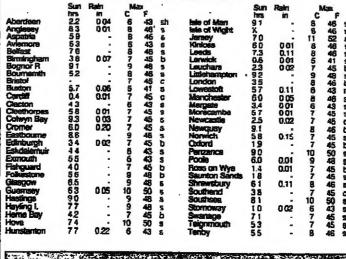
Distors, E-burgh & Dundee: mainly dry with bright or sunny spells, but rain in afternoon and evening. Fresh to strong SE wind. Max 7C (45F)

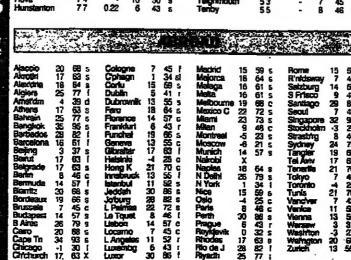
☐ A'deen, Mry Frth, NE Scottid, Orkney, Shetid: dry at first with bright, sunny spells; rain in afternoon and evening. Fresh/strong SE wind. Max 7C (45F) SW, NW Scotland, Glasgow, Cent Highlands, Argylic rain clearing; then sunshine and showers. Fresh S to SW wind. Max 7C (45F)

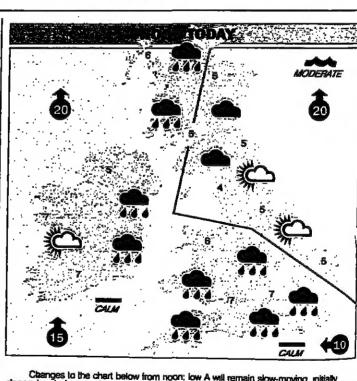
N Ireland: rain, then sunshine and showers. Mod SW wind. Max 9C (48F) ☐ Republic of Ireland: bright moming, cloudy afternoon with some rain Mod S wind. Max 10C (50F)

☐ Outlook: overnight mist and tog will clear, and tomorrow will be quite mild with sunny spells; showers in north and west, turning wintry on hills and mountains. Saturday mild and surnry in south but showers in Scotland and N Ireland.

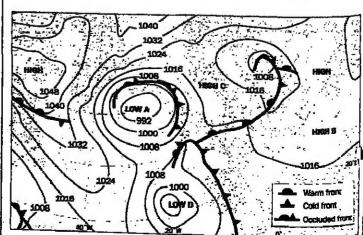
24 hrs to 5 pm; b=bnght, c=cloud; d=drizzle, ds=dust storm; du=duf; l=tair, fg=log; g=gales, h=hau r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sheet; s=sur; l=thunder

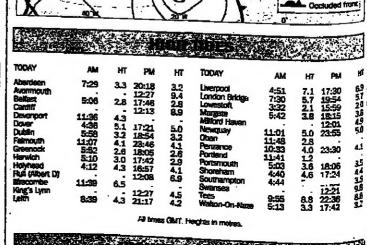






Changes to the chart below from noon; low A will remain slow-moving, initially lening, before starting to lift. High B will slowly build in situ. High C will build and drift southeast, Low D will drift east and fill





Yesterday: highest day mac Lee-on-the-Solent, Hampshire, 11C (52F); lowest mac Redesdale, Northumberland, 5C (41F); most rainfall: Watnall, Nottinghall shire, 0.73kn; most sunshine: Weymouth, Dorset, 9.7hr

